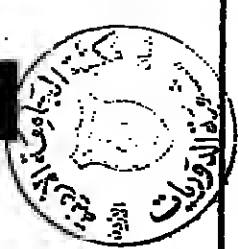


Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly



Le Jourdain
Supplément en français du Star

La Jordanie veut réduire le nombre d'étrangers travaillant dans le royaume hachémite

Voir page 14

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 97

See page 7-11

AMMAN, 19-25 DECEMBER, 1996, VOLUME 7, NUMBER 32, 350 fils

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Arab parties lash at peace process, agree to meet annually

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

A THREE-day conference for Arab political parties ended late Wednesday and a final communiqué is expected to be released in a press conference today, Thursday. The unprecedented meeting brought together over 50 political parties from 13 countries.

The conference was held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, who delivered a speech outlining the important role of political parties in the Arab world. HRH Crown Prince Hassan attended the final session.

The conference presented a strange political mix, since most of those attending could never agree to a common agenda and some are even historical foes.

But they agreed to bypass their differences, at least for the duration of the conference, and attempted to achieve "Joint Arab Solidarity and Action," which is the slogan of the conference.

During the venue, seven papers were delivered covering such broad topics as political parties and the role of the media, delivered by former Minister of Information Mr. Mahmoud El-Sharif, the role of education in building Arab societies (Dr. Eid Dhiayat), democracy and human rights in the Arab world (Dr. Yihya Al Jamal), political aspects of joint Arab action (Mr. George Haddad), economic prospects for joint Arab action (Dr. Muhammad Tarawneh) and culture and political parties (Mr. Fakhr Kassar).

After 100 days of extensive contacts, Al Mustaqbal party—a Jordanian centrist party—succeeded in bringing together about 54 parties from 13 Arab countries (60 had agreed to come). The invitations did not apply to the Arab Gulf states since these countries do not have political parties.

The organizers invited all the licensed parties in the Arab countries, and as such it was impossible to invite underground or exiled opposition parties such as the Communist Party of Saudi Arabia.

Historically, two Arab capitals—Tripoli in Libya and Damascus—hosted similar gatherings. But in these cases the political parties that were invited had the same political beliefs as their hosts.

However, the Amman meeting brought for the first time Arab parties from the extreme left to the extreme right.

The idea behind this conference "came from our concern that Arab parties and popular organizations should sit and discuss their problems and aspirations," said Mr. Suleiman Arar, general secretary of Al Mustaqbal Party. "We were hoping that they will be able to discuss the challenges and conspiracies facing the Arab nation."

The idea of holding such an event was appreciated by all participants. Many felt pleased to be conversing with people who held opposing views. For example, the Amman arena brought together representatives from the Syrian Ba'ath and the Iraqi Ba'ath parties,



Arar (center) chairs one of the sessions at conference. Dhiayat (left) and Abdel Latif Arabiyat look on.

who have been at loggerheads for the past two decades.

"Our main concern here is to come out with a united stand for the Arab struggle against external challenges. Anything is an achievement," said Saad Hamoudi, the representative of the Iraqi ruling Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party.

The list of invitees included surprise guests like the Lebanese Phalangist Party (LPP), which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1984 and still maintains good relations with the Zionist state until now.

During the 15-year Lebanese civil war, the party was accused of fascism, and of being behind the massacres of Palestinians in Lebanon.

"During the war everybody committed mistakes, we should not be evaluated in the light of the war. Those who know the Phalangist will realize that our attendance comes as part of our commitment to a Lebanese and Arab platform," Mr. Muneer Al Hajj, deputy general secretary of the LPP said.

"We believe that the Arab world is passing through a crucial period, so Arab peoples have to shoulder the responsibility besides the Arab leaders," he added.

The Egyptian Labor Party (ELP) considered the conference as posing a huge challenge for its participants as it is taking place at a time when the Arab world is rife with controversy.

"There are many differences here. But I believe there are issues of common basis," said Mr. Tala'at Musalam, president

of the ELP.

"The condemnation of the current Israeli practices, and the elimination of the foreign military presence in the Arab world and the joint Arab economic cooperation are all agreed upon by the participants," added Musalam.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) considered the conference as a strategic initiative. "We aim to bring back the Palestinian cause to the core of the Arab issue. Because we believe that as long as Palestine is occupied then the unity of the Arabs will continue to be a mere dream," said Mr. Ibrahim Ghosheh, spokesman for Hamas.

Hamas presented a critical work paper to the conference on the Palestinian situation. It talked about the experience of the Palestinian revolution in the diaspora, the model of the Palestinian Authority and the model of the Hamas movement.

However, Mr. Ghosheh later walked out of the conference in protest because he was not allowed to deliver the paper.

Differences erupted when discussion of the draft final communiqué began. There were inter-Palestinian squabbles and inter-Jordanian differences as well.

Officials from the four Palestinian parties objected to voting a Fateh candidate on the drafting committee. Fateh—a mainstream PLO organization—tried to impose its candidate but failed when

Clinton rebuke draws dismay from Israeli officials

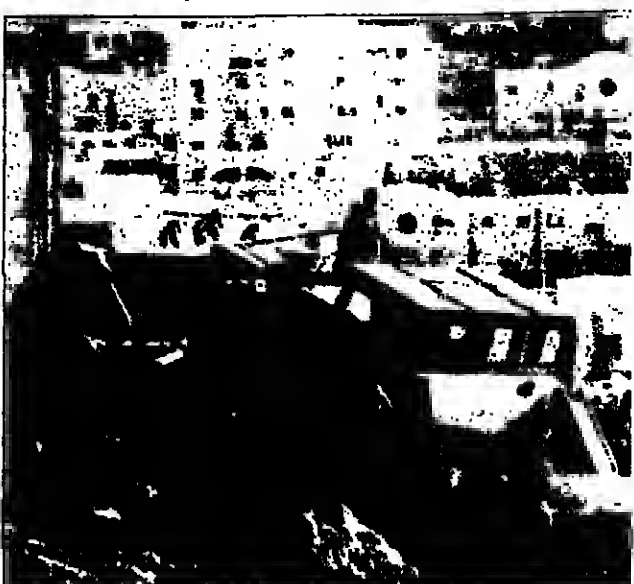
By Barton Gellman
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Israel's government reacted with surprise and dismay Tuesday to a public rebuke from President Clinton on expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, restating its claim to the territory it captured in the 1967 Middle East war and its intention to encourage more Jews to settle there.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who made no public response to Clinton's Monday remarks, was described by some of those who spoke with him as fuming. One official said Netanyahu was "angry and nonplussed," believing that Clinton should have criticized Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat instead.

Another said the prime minister was "taken aback" by Clinton's description of settlement growth as an "obstacle to peace" and an attempt to preempt promised negotiations.

Increasingly isolated in the Arab world and faced with worsening des in Europe, Israel's government has shown itself sensitive to any unfriendly shift in its relationship with its central ally in Washington. Memories are still fresh, especially in the governing Likud party, of the protracted confrontation over settlements between then President George Bush and the last Likud prime minister, Yit-



Settlements put peace in jeopardy

zhak Shamir.

The predominant government view here so far is that there is little risk of a return to those unhappy days, when Bush quashed US guarantees for \$10 billion in Israeli loans because of settlement-building by Shamir. But some new anxieties are showing now, because the presidential statement cast doubt on Netanyahu's strategy for bolstering Jewish settlements without antagonizing the United States.

Clinton's critical remarks were prompted by Israel's declaration Friday to give major new financial support to Jews building housing and businesses in the West Bank, much of which is slated for Palestinian self-rule. The planned Israeli cash infusion is calculated at hundreds of millions of dollars and would expand and strengthen even Jewish settlements far distant from the border of Israel proper and surrounded by Arab population centers.

Israel, Washington's chief ally in the Middle East, is also

Experts dampen hopes of striking big deals with Iraq

By Ilham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer

TWO WEEKS after the approval of the oil-for-food deal between Iraq and the UN, Jordanian businessmen and industrialists are beginning to realize that opportunities to sign huge deals for the Iraqi market are limited. Iraq began exporting oil through Turkey and its own port on the Gulf last week.

"The agreement provided a window of opportunity for Jordanian exporters to benefit from the Iraqi market," Dr. Jawad Al Anani, former government minister and an economic expert, told *The Star*.

He said Jordan can be a potential exporter to the Iraqi market since a sound base already exists for such purpose.

But Dr. Al Anani pointed out that Jordan is not alone in trying to land big deals and that many other countries are establishing trade links with Iraq.

"If Iraq decides to give Jordan a special treatment and the purchases of food items and medicine get the approval of the UN Security Council and the sanctions committee, then Jordanian manufacturers will benefit from this deal if they can meet specifications and competitive prices," Dr. Al Anani said. He added that he

expected Jordan's exports to Iraq to increase in the short run.

Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jabbar, an economic expert, said the benefit for the Jordanian economy from the deal depends mainly on the nature of imports stipulated in the deal. Major Iraqi imports will be wheat, flour, rice, tea, and sugar—items that are not produced by Jordan.

"This limits Jordan's benefits from the recent deal," he said.

Dr. Abdel Jabbar, former ESCWA chief and government minister, added that Jordan will face tough competition from other exporters of food items and medicines in respect to quality and cost, particularly from Dubai and Turkey.

"According to the trade protocol between Jordan and Iraq, trade volume was confined to a set quota, but with the latest oil-for-food deal there is no defined quota for any country," Abdel Jabbar said.

"Jordan should benefit from transit trade coming via Aqaba port, which should help the port and the transport sector because of increased activity," he added.

But, Mr. Adnan Al Sallakh, general director of the Export

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Madonna on her child Watching TV, going online will be out of question

By Paul D. Colford
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

MADONNA WON'T allow her daughter, Lourdes, to watch TV when she's older.

The child is "not going online!" Madonna insists. "No!" She will be raised Catholic, or so it seems.

Mother and daughter, now living in Los Angeles, will probably settle somewhere outside New York City, but "not the Hamptons."

The latest news on the Madonna front comes in an interview that appears in the January issue of *Redbook*, which goes on sale next week and shows the new mother on the cover in a hot pink lace coat, her shoulder-length blond hair streaked with brown. Although the piece is timed to help promote the release later this month of Madonna's new film, "Evita,"



her choice of the middle-brow *Redbook* to talk about motherhood and child-rearing suggests a striking departure from her vampish past, at least for now.

Madonna says she has no plans to retire—she will record a new album next year—but is on maternity leave.

On Lourdes' future education: "I don't want her to go to school with a bunch of rich kids. And I don't want her to go to an all-white school."

On whom she turns to for motherly advice: her sister Melanie Henry, a musician's manager who has a 6-year-old son and was with her when Lourdes was born, and Rosie O'Donnell, who has an adopted son and knows about car seats and diapers.

O'Donnell is "a nuts-and-bolts kind of a girl," Madonna says. "I like that."

On religion: Lourdes will "certainly know about Catholicism. The Bible is an interesting book to read. I want my daughter to read it."

On Carlos Leon, the unmarried father of Lourdes: "I don't think marriage is a guarantee of anything. I also don't think that it's my obligation to explain my relationship to people. It's not a conventional one, but I'm very happy with it."

The no-TV rule comes from Madonna's father, Tony Ciccone. She says "to be plopped



JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

Children's death remains a mystery



The case of the two children who died mysteriously in their Shmeisani apartment last week has shocked the nation. Hani, 6, and Haneen, 9, Al Masri were found dead by their mother Wednesday morning. Police, who are still investigating the deaths, have not yet announced the findings of pathologists who performed autopsy on the two children to determine the cause of death. Their mother had left them for no more than 20 minutes that morning to drive their father to work. The family had breakfast together earlier and the children were preparing to go to school. When she returned she found both children unconscious. Both were pronounced dead upon arrival to a nearby hospital. Initial reports suggested that the children had died of food poisoning. But one week later the nature of the liquid substance that was found in the stomachs of the two victims remains unclear to investigators. Police pathologists were still carrying out extensive tests and have ruled out gas poisoning as rumored by some newspapers. The possibility of foul play has not been ruled out either. The liquid material that was found had badly damaged the linings of the stomach lead to internal bleeding and finally to suffocation.

Fighting corruption

The government appears to be fighting corruption thick and fast. According to the Minister of Information, Dr Marwan Al Moasher, another 34 cases of corruption and misuse have been presented to the public prosecutor. This brings the number of corruption cases so far to 101. Some of the trials of these cases have already started. But the Special Committee for Investigating Corruption and Bribery, which was set up by the General Intelligence Department, is still continuing its task, and no doubt many more cases of misuse will soon appear. But the minister said the cases for August include cigarette and clothes smuggling in the Zerga Free Trade Zone. What is interesting here, also, is that Dr Al Moasher said that large quantities of fake supply coupons were intercepted. These originated from outside the country. The ringleaders of these, intended to print more coupons that deal with sugar and rice.

Dead chickens for sale!

This time it is Zerga. No, it

is not violence or corruption, it is rotten chicken! Municipality officials have uncovered a gang that has been selling chicken that is unfit for public consumption, and they could have been doing it for months and even years. It was reported that officials came to know of the existence of the "chicken gang" by chance, when one of their members refused to destroy the infected chickens saying he would dump them in the city's garbage dump. This aroused the suspicion of the official, who followed the man. It was found that the dead chickens were taken to a far away area where they were cleaned and sold to the public. Zerga was a gold mine for the gang since there is about 200 chicken farms in the area that produce 45 percent of the Kingdom's need.

Labor, education and getting lost

The Minister of Labor, Dr Abdel Hafez Al Shakhaneh, is rather pleased with himself these days. He says Saudi Arabia has taken more than 2,000 Jordanian teachers this year. This is indeed good news, and



HRH Prince Hassan, the Regent, headed Tuesday's cabinet session at the prime ministry. The Regent said that it is premature to talk about a coordinated Arab action in relation to the peace process though Arabs agree on some basic issues like the settlements and refugees. He said it is imperative to reemphasize the right for Palestinians to return and be compensated.

should lead to lower unemployment in the domestic market, the good doctor points out. However, Al Sabel weekly pointed out that tens of teachers who were taken by the Saudis turned back shortly afterwards. They said that after they arrived to Jeddah, they found out that the village they have been assigned to was about 600 Kilometers away. What's more there was no public transport and teachers had to find their way by themselves. In the villages, they were in for more shocks. There was no water, electricity or telephones. It is said also that there was on shops and they had to travel about 200 Kilometers to buy their daily needs. However, the teachers returned to Jordan shortly afterwards. They are now demanding that they be found new jobs by the Ministry of Education.

Recriminations in Muslim Brotherhood

Could the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan be facing problems or is it a figment of one's imagination. Whatever the case, the Brotherhood has recently lost one of its ablest members. Dr Salah Al Khalidi was one of the

leading members of the Brotherhood in the late 1980s. Dr Khalidi is angry with the movement. He says that "it has lost the test" and became preoccupied with issues that are not related to the religious message.

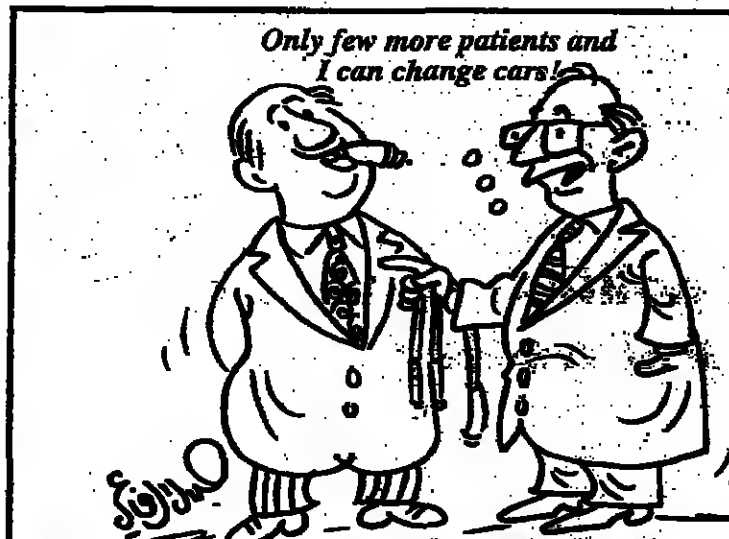
He added that the Brotherhood "has sought to satisfy the government" in favor of ministerial posts. But as usual, the resignation of Al Khalidi is being seen by observers as one more strain between

the doves and the hawks in the government. This is especially the case, since the Muslim Brotherhood has officially expelled Ahmed Al Kassabeh from its ranks only a few days before the latter's resignation. The two issues don't seem to be connected as Al Khalidi's resignation appears to be about party dogma rather than anything else.

But, the resignation have opened up a can of worms between the hawks and the doves. Although the former are



Al Omoush



lying dormant, the latter are taking the initiatives. For weeks now speculation has continued about the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood as taking part in the Kabarti government.

But such speculation raises a number of issues. Whether the government would go out for a reshuffle or indeed if it will stay in power. However, what is of our immediate concern is the behind-the-scenes negotiations that appear to be going on presently, although these are being strongly denied by the leadership of the movement. Recent statements by IAF deputies Dr Bassam Al Omoush and Dr Abdallah Al Akaleh indicate that they would be willing to join the government. Dr Al Omoush went on to suggest that even the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty is a *fait accompli*. However, his statements have brought swift denunciations from the Shura Council of the IAF.

The council stated categorically and once for all that they don't wish to join the Kabarti government and said that Al Omoush's statements caused the movement a lot of embarrassment, particularly since they are a vociferous opponents of the policies of the Kabarti government and particularly those that relate to the latest price hikes of bread and fodder.

Karak conference to be held shortly

The first conference on Karak will be held very shortly. The organizer, the Jordan Center for Studies and Information, is still in the preparation stage for the seminar. The head of the center, Mr Bilal Hassan Al Tal, said that the conference will be the kick-off point for the start of a number of conferences on Jordanian towns and cities, like Salt, Jerash and Irbid. A number of scientific papers have already been prepared on the economic and cultural life of Jerash.



The South African leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, will be coming to Jordan in November, it was confirmed by the South African Embassy in Amman. Press speculations that Mr Mandela would be coming to Jordan in the next day or two, were strenuously denied.

Abdel Baqi Gammo, an independent deputy, Dr Netham Barakat, the head of the Department of Political Science, contributed an article about Parliaments in the world. The issue follows up the Lower House activities and decisions.

Latest parliament magazine appears

The latest special issue of *Risale Majles Al Umma* has just been published. Its packed with information about the role of Parliament not just to Jordan but all over the world. The journal, which appears every two months, includes articles by Islamic Action Front Deputy, Dr Bassam Al Omoush and

Abdel Baqi Gammo, an independent deputy, Dr Netham Barakat, the head of the Department of Political Science, contributed an article about Parliaments in the world. The issue follows up the Lower House activities and decisions. There is also an interview with the deputy Abd Al Baqi Gammo under the title "Parliamentarians in Memory". Another item was about the Parliament from the point of view of press. This part tackles the press association law in particular and the proposed amendments.

Experts say water crisis

Continued from page 1

water pipelines for domestic use, but it collected the payment of only 98 mcm. This indicates that the water loss is about 52 percent as a result of the deteriorated water network, while the worst loss level worldwide is about 25 percent.

The Authority has recently launched a water network rehabilitation program which will cost JD 200 million.

Meanwhile, if the present tendency continues, experts believe Jordan will reach the "zero" point concerning water in less than 20 years. This

requires "an urgent step to limit the volume of water pumped for irrigation, before nature imposes its rules," said Dr Elias Salameh, a hydrology professor at the University of Jordan. Jordan "needs a radical water management program that takes decisive decisions. Because the current flexible style of management will lead the country to destruction."

The relationship between Jordan's diminishing water resources and rising needs of the population is deteriorating at fast rate. In 1991 the individual share from water was 293 cubic meter, but now it is expected to decrease to 176 cm by the year 2000. In 2025 when Jordan's population is expected to number 10 million, the individual share will be 88 cm. Among the available solutions is Al Disi aquifer project

which could solve the water problems of Amman, at a cost of \$50 million. The government presented the project to Amman Economic Summit last year but no steps have been taken so far.

"Many Jordanians have experience in the field of water desalination since most got their experience working in the Arab Gulf states," Mr Hashem said. The Gulf desalination stations produce 50 percent of the world's output of desalinated water. "The issue is merely a matter of finance, not technology," he added.

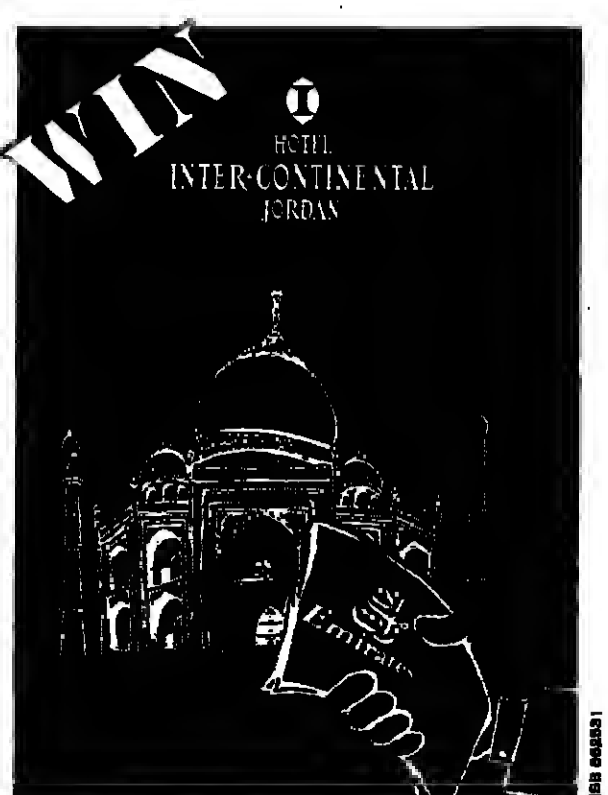
On the regional cooperation, Jordan and Syria are yet to carry out their agreement, reached over two decades ago, to build a dam on the Yarmouk River. But before both can secure international financing they need the approval of Israel which also has access to the Yarmouk.

While many experts believe Turkey could provide a long-term solution to the region's

water shortage, the projects that were proposed earlier in the eighties never really took off. Turkey's Ceyhan and Seyhan rivers discharge over 50 billion cubic meters of water in the Mediterranean Sea.

Still regional cooperation in the field of water is a complicated process and is linked to political stability and finance.

"The challenge would be to preserve what we have, not to degrade its quality. To manage it right, you do not over extract water from the ground, and that means better management," Dr Haddadin said. "It also means spending, you have to invest. When you look at us, Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis, we three are the worst case. Israel has the advantage of having higher per capita incomes, that leaves Jordan and the Palestinians with over-population and less money to spend on water resources."



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Point of order

An essential guide to speed ramps

Speed ramps are not supposed to be made of cat's eyes or other phosphorescent objects that are actually designed for highways to act as markers, especially when driving at night. What the municipality is doing is misusing these expensive objects which belong on our highways. The misuse comes out of gluing these markers to the asphalt in such a way that few days later most end up broken into little pieces because they are not designed to withstand enormous weights. In short what is being done now constitutes a drain to the city budget—in other words taxpayers' money. And yes we believe they do damage cars no matter how fast, or slow, one drives, especially when they turn into little bits and pieces, like shrapnel, that protrude in every direction.

Yes a solution must be found to speeding cars at intersections. A solution exists. It is called traffic law. Stop signs should be planted at every intersection—now they are not. Making a complete halt at stop signs must be made compulsory—police and VIP's included. This should be done first by publicizing the regulation in the local media, especially on TV by running one minute public service commercials every hour and for at least a month until everybody gets the message. Before we can deal with this problem, we must change the behavior of drivers. Ramps will not stop them if they are not conditioned to slow down before reaching an intersection.

Those who lived in the US for a while, and drove there, remember only too well that making a complete stop at an intersection became second nature to drivers even if the way was clear on all sides.

As to ramps, which obviously cannot be installed at every intersection in town, well, Greater Amman Municipality engineers in cooperation with the Traffic Dept., can go back to specialized text books and implement recommended designs. There are two such designs in Amman, the traditional hump-like asphalt ramp used in the driveways of the Royal Automobile Club, and one, more expensive but very practical, the rubber ramps recently installed at the entrance of the Marriott Hotel. Both are made to last for a long time—and both will make a reckless driver think twice as he or she approaches a dangerous intersection.

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JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



Short of punches!

■ What, another brawl at the Lower House. I can't believe it. Those deputies have only just convened. However, this is not really a major brawl, it's what you might call a tussle incident! Last week, the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Mustapha Shneikat and Lower House deputy, Ali Shami got into a bit of a tussle during the meeting of the Lower House's Financial and Economic Committee over the conditions of agricultural laborers in the Jordan Valley. Ali Shami, rapporteur of the committee, who represents that particular part of the world, accused the Ministry of Agriculture of failing in its job. The minister felt that the accusations were being levelled against him personally, became agitated and threw a glass of water at the deputy. This incident fell short of developing into a full-fledged fight only after other deputies intervened. But it didn't stop there. Ali Shami later demanded that the minister be sacked from his job. However after much debate, Dr Shneikat apologized and the tussle ended.

Muasher tells Netanyahu to stop settlements

■ Jordan is not happy about the building of settlements on the West Bank and Arab East Jerusalem. This is the message that was delivered to the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, by Dr Marwan Al Muasher, the information minister. During his four-day visit to Israel, Dr Muasher met top ranking Israeli officials and was at pains to point out to the disastrous consequences such a settlements policy could have on the peace process which is already in disarray. The minister later said that there are still big differences between the Jordanian and Israeli point of views regarding settlements. Such differences are worsened by the fact that the Israeli government is willing to give settlers "extra facilities."

Arab editors refused entry into the country

■ Something very strange happened last Thursday. Three Lebanese chief editors were not allowed to enter the country. They were held in the airport for three hours before flying back to Beirut. Rajeh Khouri of *Al Nahar* daily, Talal Salzman of *Al Safir* and George Trad of the *Al Syaad* magazine were stopped at Queen Alia International Airport. The names of two of the editors are 'black listed' for writing "unfriendly articles about Jordan." The three editors were invited to speak at a two-day workshop on investigative reporting at the Dead Sea. The organizers, the Al Ufuq Research Center and the Konrad Adenauer Institute in Amman failed to convince the immigration authorities to allow the editors to enter the country, and after much argument they left the country on the return flight of the plane they arrived in.

Mr Trad, who was allowed to enter the country, left with his two companions in protest.

The three editors had already obtained visas to enter the country from our embassy in Beirut. But in the end even this did not help. This kind of thing is really a great embarrassment to Jordan. There should be greater coordination between government agencies in this regard. But this kind of thing seems to be occurring a lot these days. Not long ago, the chief editor of the Egyptian opposition newspaper *Al Shaab* was refused entry into the country. Adel Hussein, a respected journalist went back on the first plane to Egypt. It was only after intervention by the organizers, Medmedia, that Hussein was able to enter the country.

Up the workers

■ The electricity workers and the Jordan Electric Co., are now in a state of deadlock. The reconciliation committee that was set up to solve the dispute has failed to reach a compromise. The head of the committee, deputy Thabit Abdallah, blamed the company for the deadlock. He said that it refused to meet any of the demands of the workers. It is very likely now that the dispute will be transferred to the Industrial Court.

Tabloids for sale

■ The newspaper scene in Jordan seems to follow fits and starts. On good days, we have newspapers being licensed left, right and center. On other days, it's like a dead duck! We know that the market in Jordan is not big enough for all those wonderful materials we could be reading, but never mind. Last week, the cabinet agreed to give a license to *Al Safir* (Ambassador). This is not to be confused with the famous Lebanese daily *Al Safir*. Ours is a home grown local brand that is to be published on a weekly basis to have a pitch in the tabloid market. But that's not all, only the previous week we saw the first issue of *Safary* (My Ambassador). *Safary* seems to be geared towards the modern woman with some cultural twists to it. The first issue also had an article about the child, its rights and its behavior.

Women form 37% of public sector

■ Whoever said that women have a raw deal in employment may be bunkers. I am joking of course, but after a study by the Civil Service Commission, it is found that 37 percent of the workforce in the public sector are women. However, the highest percentage is in the education sector. Out of a workforce of 66381, women formed 35257, that's slightly over 53 percent. The health sector comes next. Women form about 45 percent of this sector, that is 9319 out of a total of 20448. Also about 31 percent of women in the government sector hold university degrees, that's more than 16,000, those with community college diplomas form about 43 percent, that is 22856, and those with a Tawjihi education form 26 percent, about 13,884 women.

Grant to Aqaba marine from Germany

■ The German government is to fund a joint Jordanian-German research and teaching project in oceanography and investigating life in the crevasses of the coral reefs. The project will be carried out by the Aqaba Marine Science Station and the German Center for Tropical Marine Ecology in Germany. The German Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Technology is providing about JD 340,000 to projects that will focus on integrating Jordan into the Red Sea Programme. The program has started early this month and continues till December, 1998.

Jordan receives military package from US

AMMAN (Star)—Jordan received \$100 million worth of military hardware, Saturday from the United States. His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces inspected the cargo that was carried by the USS Cape Wrath, that docked in the Aqaba port.

The King described the US aid as "a firm and true indication of the fact that we are friends and that we stand together."

"We are deeply grateful for the president of the United States and his administration," the King told a press conference on board of the American carrier.

The military hardware included 18 UH-1H helicopters, 50 M60A3 tanks, 250 M1008 and M1009 trucks, 2 MK-4 personnel boats, an air-sea rescue vehicles, machine guns and 1000 night vision goggles.

This is the first stage of a \$300 million package by the United States to help modernize the Jordanian army. The remainder will be allocated towards purchasing 16 F-16 jet fighters which the US will deliver by the end of 1997.

US Ambassador to Jordan, Wesley Egan, who attended the handing over ceremony, said that his country will also deliver a C-130 aircraft to the Jordanian Armed Forces by March next year.

King Hussein said the hardware will be used to protect the Constitution, democ-



racy and Jordan's role in peace-keeping forces world-wide.

The King said that he was proud that Jordan has become a non-Nato status ally. Accompanying His Majesty was HRH

Prince Hamzeh, Prime Minister Mr Abdel Karim Al Kabari, who is also responsible for the defence portfolio, the Joint Chief of Staff, Field Marshal Abdel Hafez Mirei Al Ka'abnah, and other senior officers. ■

Two decades after his death Al Tal's image is put into perspective

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

A DEEP and honest researcher into the history of the late Wasfi Al Tal, would conclude that he is innocent from the "narrow ultra-nationalist" accusations that are levelled against him. His friends at the time and those he worked with believe that Al Tal was a staunch pan-Arabist.

Contrary to popular opinion, he believed that Jordan is a part of the big Arab home.

Activists of the so-called Jordanian National Front are making Al Tal an idol for their ultra-nationalist dogma and for their beliefs in the concept of Jordan for Jordanians.

"He never sounded to me as somebody who tilted his thinking and emotions in favor of trans-Jordanians against those Jordanians of Palestinian origin. I never felt this. He always advocated unity," said Mr Marwan Doudeen, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin, who worked closely with Al Tal from February 1971 till his ill-fated trip to Egypt where he was assassinated.

"Most of what is written about Al Tal is an uneducated analysis of his personality to say the least if not a biased one," he added. "The man believed more than anything else to the unity between Jordanians and Palestinians, and he always considered the Fertile Crescent countries of Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq as being the core of any Arab unity in the future."

Al Tal took part in the Salvation Army in Palestine in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. He was then an officer in the Syrian Army in the Golan Heights. His political, economic and social thinking made him one of the main exponents of Arab nationalism in Jordan at the time.

History tells us that he never accepted the loss of Palestine and was obsessed by its liberation.

His three books written in Arabic, "The Story of the Salvation Army", "Reasons Behind the Failure in the Palestinian War", and "Reasons behind the Arab Military Defeat in Palestine" testify to the fact that he was bitter about and critical of Arab performance in the 1948.

He said Arabs "lacked a strong will and performed weakly." He openly talked about misguided campaigns which harmed the self-confidence of the Arabs.

"Regionalism in the mind of Al Tal did not exist as a goal in itself, he believed that nationalism should serve as a cornerstone for the wider Arab nationalist goal," said Dr Abdallah Al Nagrushi, a political science professor in the University of Jordan. "It is illogical to imagine that such a visionary leader believed in a narrow Jordanian nationalist angle."

However, Dr Nagrushi believed that Al Tal's thought was much more complex. His nationalism interacted with two other concentric circles: the idea of the greater Syrian Fertile Crescent and the wider Arab region. At the end of the day he had a pan-Arabist goal.

Wasfi Al Tal was born in Baghdad in 1921, to a peasant family from Irbid. He was the eldest son of the late Jordanian poet, Mustafa Wahbi Al Tal (Arar), a controversial and outspoken figure.

Al Tal, the father, was known for his critical poetry,



Al Tal: A nationalist with an Arab vision

and a strong opponent of the government. He was imprisoned several times.

The younger Tal studied in the American University of Beirut receiving his bachelor's degree in science in 1941.

The 1950s was a period of turbulent political upheaval in the Arab world. The popular discontent led to a sharp growth in support for several pan-Arab ideologies. Al Tal joined the Arab Nationalist Movement (ANM), an anti-Syrian Ba'ath style pan-Arabist movement.

He left the movement when it adopted pro-Nasserist methods—referring to undisputed star of pan-Arab politics, Gamal Abdel Nasser. Al Tal believed that Nasserism was demagogic. It was during this time that Al Tal became convinced that he was destined to enter Jordanian political life.

"As a pragmatist it was natural for Al Tal to differ with the ANM. He believed that the thoughts and slogans of this movement focussed on ideology more than the practical political dimension," Al Nagrushi added.

Al Tal was a diplomatic high flyer. In the heat of the inter-Arab media war campaigns, he led the Jordanian broadcasting war through his post as director of Jordan Radio. When the Arab airwaves calmed down, Al Tal was assigned as an ambassador to Baghdad.

Al Tal raised more than an eyebrow. He was recalled to

Amman to form his first government in January 1962. The majority of his cabinet members were from Palestinian origin. In December of that year he formed his second reformed cabinet. Al Tal introduced a series of liberal reforms and launched a "clean up policy" that lasted three months.

During his public service, he was appreciated by Jordanians for his transparent policy and reform. The economy started to take off as evidenced by industrial growth.

But it was his approach that earned him the greatest respect. Essentially, his down-to-earth attitude gained him popular support.

The civil war of 1970 and its aftermath is a controversial period in Tal's life. The war continued for two weeks in bloody clashes between PLO's fighters and the Jordanian army. Described as "Black September" this sad chapter in Jordan's history continues to haunt many until today.

Al Tal took over as a prime minister in the aftermath of those incidents. "His job was to put the country back in order with as little force as possible," Doudeen said. "My duty as director of broadcasting was to alleviate the sadness and anger that prevailed, by attempting to restore national unity among Jordanians as soon as possible."

In 1971 Al Tal was ready to cooperate with the Yasser Arafat's Fateh, the PLO's main-

stream faction. He rejected dealing with Palestinian Marxist groups, such as the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Both were accused of being behind the anarchical situation that existed in the Kingdom before the incidents of the '70s.

"Al Tal differed from the so-called 'liberators of Palestine' by one thing," Doudeen said. "He believed that the loss of Palestine in 1948 should not trigger any kind of struggle with the Zionist state to a disorganized way."

"He believed that the Fedayeen's operations will be futile and just end up with more killing if they are not closely coordinated with the regular Arab armies within all countries that surround Palestine," Doudeen said.

In his fifth government in 1970, Al Tal chose three Jordanian figures who are of Palestinian origin to be responsible for Jordan's TV, radio and the Ministry of Information.

"Those who negatively evaluated Al Tal defy the true thoughts of the man. He was careful to keep the September incident behind everybody," said Mr Taher Al Adwan, who worked with Al Tal in the press and later in radio.

"I believe accusing Al Tal of being a regionalist is to misinterpret his thoughts," Al Nagrushi said. "He was able to build a national and an Arab program to confront the coming challenges."

The last stage of Al Tal's life was his insistence on participating in the meetings of the Arab Defence Council in Cairo. The Egyptians forewarned Jordan of the risk to his life if he attended.

In the afternoon of 28 November 1971, Al Tal was assassinated in front of the Sheraton Hotel in Cairo. Three persons opened fire gunning him down. An unknown group called "Black September" declared its responsibility.

"There is a fourth point that was missed in the report of the Council, which should revolutionize the Occupied Land. I believe that Arab efforts should be concentrated on that front for strategic and tactical goals. If we succeed to imbalance the enemy in the Occupied Land, we would not need the military battalions that were mentioned in the report," Al Tal said in his address to the Arab Defence Council, hours before his assassination. ■

People & Politics

Political parties: Looking for a common compass

■ The meeting of about 60 Arab political parties in Amman this week is a historical occasion indeed. Nothing like it has ever happened before, not during the turbulent '50s, the oppressive '60s, the sober '70s and the frustrating '80s.

Throughout the last four decades, the evolution of the Arab world's political parties was not a shared experience, although the pains of territorial loss, the agonies of military defeat and the bitterness of political submission were equally shared. Political parties in the Arab world were never populist institutions. In many cases, they were an expression of an elitist, monopolistic and autocratic rule by a few—mostly overzealous generals and ideologues.

That's why the dialogue that took place in Amman this week should have been interesting and enlightening.

It is almost impossible to draw a picture of the political development of the Arab world, with the exclusion of the Gulf sheikdoms, without juxtaposing historic events, dates and personalities with the history of Arab political parties. Can one indulge into the modern history of Iraq, for example without drawing on the evolution of the Arab Baath Party? Or would the history of post-colonial Algeria be complete without building on the influence of the National Liberation Front?

Jordan's short-lived democratic experiment in the 1950s is blamed on the illegitimate ambitions of leftist parties such as the Jordan Communist Party. Lebanon's Phalangist Party has been literally rewritten, albeit not by itself, but by the modern history of that country during the 1970s and early '80s.

One wonders what, in the final analysis, was the net result of these parties' contribution to their countries and to the Arab world in general. Such a question will not be answered in the Amman gathering. Arab political parties today do not dare address themselves to such questions. Looking back is not a virtue, unless one knows where one is heading. Today, the Arab world is moving without a political compass, unlike the '60s when we had Nasser, for example.

The Nasserite experiment was dissected and examined carefully in Egypt during the Sadat era. But the bitter lessons of that age never filtered down into the pan Arab psyche. We don't expect a national debate on Nasser to start now. But Arab parties should try to re-create a common base for the Arabs of the 1990s and for the Arab world as it crawls towards the 21st century.

Those who were missing from the Amman meeting will be the Arab people, from the Gulf to the Ocean as the popular saying goes, in whose name these 60 or odd parties claim to speak. What do they really want and how do they see the future? It is doubtful if the political parties will ever be able to transform themselves from being the dogmatic, paternalistic, romantic, abusive and power-hungry clusters that they are today into real democratic platforms for the people.

There is a crisis in the Arab world today. It is about leadership, at the individual country level, as well as the pan Arab regional level. That crisis has left the Arab world, and the Arab people, politically demoralized, economically unmotivated and culturally bankrupt.

And this is how we met the challenge of making peace with Israel few years ago. No wonder that the prospects for a better future are gloomy and uninviting for many.

One can distribute blame. But that is not the point. One should be harsh in the case of countries where a single party has enjoyed absolute power for many years. But what about countries where political parties have not had the chance to rule? It is difficult to come to a conclusion. How would Jordan's development have looked like, for example, if the communists took over back in the 1950s, or if the IAF were to form a government in the early 1990s?

On the other hand one is still trying to understand the phenomenon of the economically robust, but politically unsophisticated, Gulf sheikdoms. For some time, at least, politicized citizens were a missing ingredient in these societies. Bribed into accepting traditional rule, these societies did not go through the tumultuous experiences of the Levant and North African Arab states. This is changing now, but political parties are still too far away from emerging.

But if dialogue is better than entrenchment and isolation, then one has to applaud the Amman meeting, and in particular the initiative of the Mustaqbal Party of Jordan. Solidarity and common action is the slogan of the conference. How close are Arab political parties today from achieving that romantic goal is hard to say.

Osama El-Sherif

JORDAN TODAY

TOURISM-CULTURE-ENTERTAINMENT

DECEMBER 1996

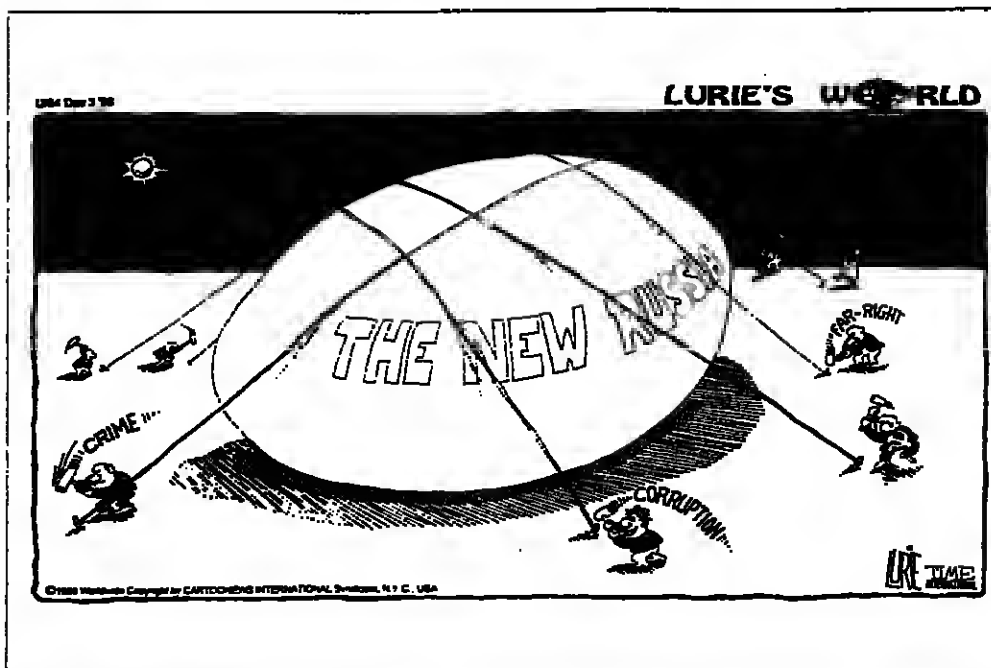
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Our Say...

Israel's act of war

PRESIDENT CLINTON has criticized Israel's recent decision to expand Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories and described the settlements as an "obstacle to peace." And in an unprecedented move, the former US secretary of state has signed a letter lambasting the Likud-led government for its settlements' policies and warned that it could endanger the peace process. In Israel itself 40 Knesset members have signed a petition calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel's relations with Jordan are at their lowest since the two countries signed a peace treaty and Jordan's minister of information tells the Israeli leaders that their settlements policies is a threat to the stability of Jordan.

Other Arab countries who began a process of normalizing relations with Israel announce a halt unless the Israelis honor the terms of their agreement with the Palestinians.

Yet the Israeli leader and his government continue to defy international appeals and are taking the region and the peace process into a dead end.

The issue of settlements cannot be ignored or moved back to a future date. Territory is the crux of the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Without land to negotiate over, there would no foundation for real and genuine peace. Israeli actions are a breach of the very idea that brought Arabs and Israelis together in Madrid. Every step taken to fatten an existing settlement, or build a new one, separates the negotiators further from their goal; which is peace.

Without an agreement to honor, the region will be sucked back into a cycle of violence and counter-violence. Today, it is the extremists on both sides of the divide who are assuming control. And those who believed in the possibility of peace between Arabs and Israelis are shying away from their dream. That is the crime that Mr Netanyahu has committed and that is why we say that the peace process is in peril.

We say this as Israel's Foreign Minister arrives in Amman for a short working visit. We say this because we no longer believe that he should be telling us, and the world, that Israel is still committed to peace and to working with the Palestinians. Israeli actions negate every word and every comma in the agreements that were negotiated over the years between the two sides.

Mr Levy should go back to Israel with a clear message: Jordanians, as all the Arabs, no longer believe that peace is the goal of the Israeli government. On the contrary, Israeli actions in the Occupied Territories, in Jerusalem and in the Golan, are acts of war and aggression. Mr Levy should return with a message to his leader that Israeli actions are driving the region towards an inevitable confrontation. Mr Levy should understand that we can only view the Israeli policies as a conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinians, their identity and their cause. This is not peace, and if we are to be driven into a corner then the region, and Israel, can expect a bleak nightmare to replace hope and stability. ■

Letters to the Editor

Fighting a just cause

To The Editor

I agree with Raif Najim's article, "The Arab Nation: Looking for a Better Future." (The Star, 5 December, 1996).

I'm sure you know that Americans have no control over "US" foreign policy. They are forced to pay taxes, support corruption, or go to jail. I hope that Arabs take this into mind. I've heard a lot of Americans know what is happening in the Middle East, and sympathize with Arabs, even Mr Saddam Hussein. They understand the history of WWI, and WWII.

They understand who Lawrence of Arabia was, and what Rothschild and Britain did to the Middle East, and to the world. Rothschild and other

wealthy Jewish financiers financed communism, and put the white Russian people under Soviet Totalitarianism.

Then the "West" under Franklin D. Roosevelt betrayed Eastern Europe. (Hitler was against the One World Order and Communism and Zionism. Arabs must overcome the imposed tyranny because it is still alive like a beast. The Bible scriptures in Revelation 17, etc., show that it will be overcome. But it must be done righteously. Remember Ghandi and his tactics.

Many Americans are unaware of what the truth is. The media, textbooks, books sold, and politicians mislead them. Some politicians are aware of the truth, but mislead—they want only to be re-elected.

Other politicians are afraid. Some Christian pastors are misled also, who then mislead their flocks.

George Bush is a war criminal, but God will judge him. Arab nations can put their differences aside and unite. "Divide and conquer" is what keeps them from success. Arabs must put away their differences and unite righteously to throw the old mandates off, imposed in WWI and WWII.

Keep bringing your case persistently to Mr Clinton, the press (CNN) and C-Span, all newspapers, the internet, and sympathetic Jews. Do not give up. Ghandi pressed on and won.

James Short
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Facing the challenge of Jordanian youth

By Dr Musa Shteivi

IN SPITE OF the fact that Jordanian youth constitute a significant number of the population, it can be argued that they are the most neglected segment. Indeed, they have received little attention from society.

The demographic, economic, and social transformation that Jordan has experienced in the last two decades created a generation of youth that suffers from value disorientation, blurred identity, and alienation. Social institutions, the state, educational system, the family and others have been unable to capture the hearts of our youth. Have failed to create a coherent identity for them, and have failed to provide them with meaningful and achievable goals.

At the political level, the youth are excluded from partic-

ipating or influencing the political process. They feel that they are unable to control or influence the events or decisions shaping their future. Most are apathetic and passive towards public issues. Furthermore, they lack a political orientation to guide them.

Both the state and political parties alike failed to address the needs and issues of the youth and consequently to attract and mobilize them.

The quality of education that university graduates are receiving is getting worse. Universities are crowded with largely unmotivated students, unmotivated professors, and in many cases outdated curriculums.

The societal pressure on young men and women to receive education and the quest for quantity is more damaging to youths even more so than we are willing to acknowledge.

Furthermore, the problem of education is compounded with the scarcity of jobs in the labor market. Youth and educated unemployment is on the rise. Some of them will go through life without getting a job. Education for youth might be turning into a punishment rather than a reward. This leaves youth with little money, knowledge and power to explore their potential.

Most critically, young people suffer from what can be called value disorientation. This is occurring mainly because the country is in the middle of a transitional period. We have one foot in modernity and the other in tradition. The implications of this for youth are that many of the prevalent traditional values are no longer able to fit their way of life, aspirations and actual needs. The values, goals, and beliefs that are highly appreciated are no longer those of the young generation and are assigned low reward value by young people.

Therefore, youths are somewhat isolated from the general cultural goals of society indicating a possibility of an actual generational gap between adults and youth. The problematic position of youth in our society today involves a conception of discontinuity between the value systems of adults and youth.

What we are witnessing and refusing to acknowledge might

be the emergence of a youth subculture where the young are socialized into and committed to a set of values, standards, expectations and behavioral patterns that are distinguishable from those of "adult society" and it implies a fundamental rift between the two-age categories.

This youth culture is not accepted or comprehended by adults yet. But it represents a more micro level response to the changing macro arrangements of our society, such as those from the relative prosperity of the 1970's to the recession of 1980's and 1990's. It also involves the erosion of traditional communities, the impact of technological and organizational changes at work, unemployment, the growth of mass consumption and mass entertainment, and rapid political changes.

However, it must be mentioned and understood that youths do not constitute a socially homogeneous group. They are divided along class lines, urban-rural and cultural lines. Therefore their response to these developments might vary accordingly. But what they probably have in common is that they are all alienated, and subjected to the large society. They also lack a coherent identity and sense of direction. All concerned should be seriously doing something about our youth before it is too late. ■

The author is a sociology professor at the University of Jordan, and starting from this issue will be a regular contributor to The Star.



Alienation among youth should be the object of much research in our academic institutions

The year that was; the year to come

By Carrie Nelle Moye
Star US Correspondent

DECEMBER IS the month of reflection. The year that was is examined; the year to come demands commitments. This should be especially true for Clinton. While still in a celebratory mood—electoral victory, holiday festivities, anticipation of his second inauguration—the President should feel much more at ease with himself. He should show greater determination to launch new policies reflecting his own hopes and those of the younger generation, not those of former generations who were reared in hot and cold wars, whose thinking was geared to confrontation and conquest rather than cooperation and accommodation. He should indeed be the spirit of "the new world order."

His nomination of Madeleine Albright as Secretary of State is interesting. This position will influence to a great extent the course the United States will take in its dealings with the world body in the next few years. It is too early and would be unfair to pre-judge Albright but we know from her position as US Ambassador to the United Nations that she has a strong attachment to confrontations and coercion that is inappropriate in our present world.

Clinton has a unique historic opportunity to pen a new page in US history highlighting America's role, not only as the sole remaining superpower, but also as a peacemaker and promoter of egalitarian democracy and development for all countries. Clinton must direct Albright to channel her extraordinary talents along these lines.

Clinton is fortunate to be the recipient of actions executed by his predecessors. He took office as the Soviet Empire was collapsing and the cold war ending. He took office as America's military prowess and global influence were at their peak following the "liberation" of Kuwait by a large coalition assembled and led with great skill and "friendly persuasion" engineered by the Bush administration.

It is almost symbolic that Clinton, as the first President born after World War II, should experience his initial term without the pressures and threats of the cold war.

The symbolism may go as far as indicating that the new generation represented by Clinton was heralding a new chapter in modern history: The new world order to be nurtured and managed by the new generation. World affairs, however, are too complex to allow symbolism to prevail. This past

year has been a typical example and a crucial milestone as well as a reminder that "business as usual" is a pipe dream.

In the Middle East, Benjamin Netanyahu, elected Prime Minister of Israel, turned the tables on Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher. Both had thought peace in the Middle East was at hand, especially following the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinians; the lengthy, and promising Israeli-Syrian/Lebanese negotiations in Washington; the peace treaty (and subsequent fanfare) between Jordan and Israel.

Clinton's hopes for a special place in history as the ultimate broker of peace in the Middle East were crushed by Netanyahu's victory despite all the summitry with King Hussein, Peres, Rabin, Mubarak, Arafat, Assad, Fahd and others. Netanyahu literally and skillfully snatched the initiative from Clinton, especially during his two successive visits to Washington when, in front of the establishment and world media, he behaved as master of ceremonies in the White House, relegating Clinton to the role of second fiddler.

As this occurred during Clinton's reelection campaign, perhaps the President's behavior can be excused. But now will Clinton be willing—able?—to re-grasp the initiative and steer the Middle East back to the path of peace, away from the rumbles of hostility? Even peaceniks—Egypt, Jordan, and other staunch US allies—have no more excuses for Clinton and Netanyahu when they face their home constituencies.

When the Israelis committed the massacre in Qana, S. Lebanon, last April, killing 104 civilians who had taken refuge in the "safe zone" of the UN forces, even Yasser Arafat found excuses for the then Prime Minister Shimon Peres, in order not to endanger the peace process. Now Arafat can not even find an excuse for the tunnel near the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

Washington and its Middle East allies are running out of credibility throughout the Arab nations and Islamic world because of Netanyahu's actions and Clinton's inaction.

Here is the President's new challenge in one of the most crucial regions of the world, both for western energy supplies and global peace. Time is evaporating; action is needed now. Reinventing the Middle East peace process will help solve Washington's other problems in the region as all are connected directly or indirectly to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

What holds true for the Middle East holds true elsewhere: defining new US objectives and strategies with allies and foes. The overwhelmingly pro-American policies of Western Europe, are giving way to skepticism, criticism and subtle confrontation over such issues as expanding NATO to the frontiers of Russia; trade/embargoes/sanctions against some countries but not others with equally ghastly human rights records; the US role in the Balkans; the re-election of Burtos-Ghali as UN Secretary General.

(Fourteen of 15 members of the Security Council, including the United Kingdom, voted for Burtos-Ghali. The US refused

adamantly. America preaches democracy. Democracy in its basic elements is the will of the majority. Isn't democracy the will of 14 against one? What will America gain from this silly confrontation but earning a new accolade for the bullyish Ugly American? The writer of this article is no admirer of Burtos-Ghali, but has faith in the principle of democratic practice and international decency.)

A new generation (Clinton and team) managing the new world order should adopt fresh outlooks toward inherited real or imagined issues. Other than to alienate allies like Canada, Western Europe and Latin America, what is the US gaining by continuing a boycott against Cuba? The only gain is silencing the vocal community of exiled Cubans in the States. Cuba certainly is no longer a threat to the US, so why persist with policies that were viable in 1960? Let time and biology restrain Castro and his aging comrades. If the US can live and cooperate with China and Vietnam, why not with Cuba?

Clinton has other issues to address: partnership with the rest of Latin America; trade with the Asian tigers—notably Japan, the emerging powerhouses of Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea and mainly China; terrorism; drugs; Africa with its escalating instability. Clinton has domestic problems of which we all are aware. Most importantly, Clinton must lead a restoration of the spirit of America—America the just, the benevolent, the safe-haven, the righteous—the same spirit the founders hoped to create, a foretaste of paradise. ■



"Here's to our diplomatic triumph in Haiti!"

Middle East Beat

Conspiracy theories

ETHAN BRONNER of the *Boston Globe*, raised the conspiracy theories issue in the Middle East, when he said that he repeatedly finds himself "sitting in living rooms and book-lined offices, listening to scholars, businessmen or politicians weave surreal scenarios."

Western foreign policy analysts, and Middle East watchers, are moving to incorporating conspiracy theories as part of their analysis of this region. Without such an approach, western academics believe that a great part of the rational would be missing, in seeking to understand the Near Eastern political philosophy. Such incorporation could be useful if facts are discerned from fiction when analyzing the prism of political action.

A point comes to mind when on 17 July 1990, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein threatened force against Kuwait in one of his speeches. Don Kerr, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies declared that "Arabic rhetoric is always colorful, so it's natural to the region for people to discount what they are bearing." Two weeks later, Kuwait was invaded by Iraq.

The problem remains that conspiracies, real or imagined, can only provoke conspiratorial response, with total abstraction from reality. The stigma of a conspiratorially-minded Middle East often prejudiced good relations with the West, and handicapped cooperation among Arab and Muslim states.

When the Iraqi media reported in 1992, that the US was forging Iraqi dinars, no one believed the story, but American sources later confirmed that it was true. The suspicion created by a web of lies, with some occasional truth gave way to distrust and disbelief towards each other's intentions.

However, the exclusion of the conspiracy theory angle from western analysis, has also propounded the misconceptions about the Arab and Islamic worlds. To an extent, they are virtually viewed in terms of an ethnocentric European superiority domain. This is a dangerous and negative since it reinforces the patronizing western outlook to the Middle Eastern thought; it is the helplessness and dependency engendered in conspiracy theories. We end up reflecting on ourselves, lamenting on our sad fate, and link our future to forces that are outside our region.

Since we cannot do anything about our own destiny, then we must blame our ills and woes on other extra-territorial powers who constantly conspire against us. Michael Field's book, *Inside the Arab World*, stated that Arabs "most often turn to the West and say, in effect, we can do nothing, you have put us in this position, now you have to help us, the solution is in your hands. Yet the Arabs themselves did little diplomatically to make western governments and public opinion want to help them. The Arabs did not appreciate their own diplomatic and economic potential except in crude confrontational terms, and overestimated the power of western governments to put pressure on a country like Israel without their electorate being fully behind the policy."

In any case, western governments are mainly concerned with the uninterrupted flow of oil, and guaranteeing the protection of their markets and investments, while they have an "adroit" ethical and moral position regarding the support of Arab legitimate causes. Though at times they find it difficult to implement. If we are to rely on conspiracy theories to formulate Arab foreign policy, then might as well impose that on the western political analysts. ■

Business scene

■ The size of domestic revenues reached JD 123.5 million over last August. About JD 73.4 million revenues were generated from taxes. This is compared to JD 109 million for last July. The government current expenditure totalled JD 101.9 million in August, and capital expenditure was JD 58.6 million.

■ The number of hot cheques over the last nine months reached 315,500 at JD 328.1 million. This is compared to 440,900 cheques JD 400,400 million, in the previous year, the highest ever in Jordan. In Amman bounced cheques in September were 643,000 at JD 85.3 million. In Irbid it was 47,000 at JD 32.8 million. In Zarqa 40,000 at JD 30 million and in Aqaba there were 11,000 hot cheques at JD 28.9 million.

■ The latest survey on living standard in Jordan put unemployment rate at 17% this year. This is high compared to the estimated ratio of 13%. The survey sampled more than 6000 families. Poverty is still at its peak, as 22% of people have a monthly income of JD 120, and 8% of some families live on only JD 80. This implies that the poverty rates exceed 1/5 inhabitants. However 8.3% of families have monthly income of JD 440, and only 1.2% earn JD 800. The figures indicate that unemployment and poverty are not decreasing despite the higher economic growth rates.

■ The Industrial Cities Corp., is to carry out the full design for the designated Karak Industrial area. The corporation bought 1856 dunums from the Karak Governorate to build the industrial city. The tenders were given to the Engineering Corner company and Amman Bureau for Engineering Consultancy and City Planning. The agreement covers road design, and creating infrastructural networks for water, electricity, sewerage, lighting, and other services. Costs for the study and design are about JD 112,000. The project will be handled in stages.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 18 December

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1708	1.1767
DM	0.4547	0.4570
SPY	0.5318	0.5345
FRF	0.1346	0.1353
TRY (100)	0.6226	0.6257
YEN	0.4054	0.4074
LYF (100)	0.4619	0.4642

The Dead Sea
A source of wealth at handBy Ilham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer

IT'S NOT coincidence, but his good luck, maybe ours. He sought to unravel the mysteries of the Dead Sea by providing solutions for mankind. The water of the Dead Sea is said to contain more than 400 elements and compounds. "If these compounds are studied, analyzed and exploited carefully then their results and benefits would be amazing," Dr. Maher Al Manasrah, a professor at Amman Applied Engineering University tells *The Star*.

"After graduation from a Russian university, with a city planning degree in 1991, I set upon a project to invent a new cement from the Dead Sea, he adds. "Such cement is a material produced by grinding and softening a material which is produced after burning, when the Dead Sea water is simply added. The results are revolutionary; a new kind of cement with distinct features that no other cement has."

The manufactured and used cement today, the Portland cement is a one which needs high energy. It needs to be burnt and ground by a set of

chemical compounds such as silicon, aluminium, ferrous and calcium oxides. The resulting Portland cement whose color is grey requires a complicated process to change into white cement and various colours, Dr. Al Manasrah adds.

Therefore, it was necessary to create a special and new kind of cement, by using raw materials which differ completely in their components than others used in usual cement.

Dr. Al Manasrah continues that his invention has proved its economic feasibility and carries within it a promising success for a better future. "My discovery is featured by a material characterized by its white color, high dynamism, and cheaper price."

Dead Sea cement can be coloured with any organic or non-organic dyes, without having any effect on greater breaking resistance. "So we can obtain a multicolour cement with a facile process, whereas in Portland cement a complicated process is required to change the grey color to white or others. This explains the high price of White Cement everywhere."

Moreover, the energy needed to burn and crush four compounds which are used to pro-

duce Portland Cement is about 1450C. "However, with the Dead Sea Cement, the reduction in energy consumption is less than half, leading to huge savings in production expenses," Dr. Al Manasrah stresses.

This is because the new cement is produced by adding one material only to the Dead Sea water.

In addition to this, there is the environmental factor. Industrial wastes have the greatest effect in the developing process of industries.

"Of course, any chemical processes have damaging effects. There are oxides plus dust for instance. But there is an obvious difference between the damage caused by burning and crushing one material as it is the case with the new cement and the effect of burning and grinding four compounds, as it is the case with the Portland cement."

We can also measure the economic feasibility of the new cement by the cheaper costs of raw materials which are available in local sites and easily obtained and transported to the factories, Dr. Al Manasrah adds.

The new cement can be used

for manufacturing floors of chemical factories and laboratories which are exposed to chemicals and acids that cause corrosion to the floor surface which is presently made of Portland cement.

It can be easily used in dairy plants, potassium and phosphate factories.

The surface of the new cement is soft and smooth, without deforming or porous bubbles. It has a unique capacity to be cast in molds with different shapes and dimensions.

This invention can have far-reaching consequences to the Dead Sea. The salt density of the sea has proved an obstacle for the construction of buildings along the coasts of the Dead Sea. However, by adopting Al Manasrah's method this can be overcome.

The new cement is not restricted to the Dead Sea water only. "I am proud that my invention is featured by some specifications, the most important of which is its resistance to the Dead Sea salts, but I am ready to develop this material through treatment with any sea water around the world, and I have concluded some studies leading to positive results with German

companies."

However, Dr. Al Manasrah is having difficulty in finding financial backers. The invention still requires extensive research through laboratories, technical equipments and feasibility studies. But these difficulties are still for the medium term.

What is now required is for the invention to be registered either locally or internationally, so that it can be protected by law. His invention has already a Jordanian patent from the Ministry of Industry and Trade. ■

Errata

● The Export & Finance Bank's authorized capital is JD 20 million. It's general manager, Mr. Adnan Al Sallakh, says: "according to our bank's license 50 percent should be focused on export finance and the remaining 50 percent on other banking activities."

Royal Jordanian
Change through active involvement

AMMAN (Star)—Under the slogan of "Reflecting the Change," Mr. Nader Al Thahabi, the chief executive officer of Royal Jordanian, addressed the 33rd Annual Marketing and Sales Conference last Monday at the Marriott Hotel. He said that the conference is held "at the threshold of major changes that would enable us to adapt to the ever changing environment of our industry."

Al Thahabi said that a number of events have negatively influenced the performance of RJ. "...The explosions in Tel Aviv and Ashkelon, followed by the South Lebanon heavy bombings, the Israeli elections and subsequent changes to the political mood. Those events were followed by missile strikes on southern Iraq, the disturbances to the southern part of Jordan and the opening of the tunnel in Jerusalem. Thanks to the progress in information technology and the wide-spread media influence of reporting these events resulted in the cancellation of business, holiday and religious trips to our region," he added.

The privatization process and the adoption of the market policies makes it imperative for RJ to face up to the competition in a market economy.

Al Thahabi highlighted the main elements of the Royal Jordanian plan for 1997. He said

that "we have planned our aircraft to fly 3.1 percent more hours than in 1996. Total capacity is to increase by 3.9 percent by 1997 over 1996 including new routes and the additional frequencies. The projected seat factor will be kept at about 70.7 percent and load factor at about 60 percent. This is a growth of 11.7 percent in passenger traffic target and 10.9 percent in excess baggage, 11.3 percent in cargo and 10.2 percent in mail."

Regarding changes to the fleet, Al Thahabi said that "we will continue to operate the L1011-500 at least for the next three years. This does not mean that the introduction of new long haul aircraft is excluded. On the contrary, with the open skies policy with the USA and the code share alliance with TWA we are working hard to introduce a new type of airplane either by the end of 1997 or early 1998."

He went on to say that the A310 will stay for years to come and "we are conducting



Al Thahabi

serious studies to find out which is more economical on certain medium routes, the A310 or the A320. One very old 707 plane will be put out of service by March 1997. This will either be replaced by a newer 707 like the remaining two airplanes or a wet leased cargo plane will be used as business dictates."

Al Thahabi reviewed the role the area managers play in improving the performance of RJ. Each area manager in the new plan must achieve his or

her area target during at least two years of his four-year posting. They must work to reduce the operating profits but "not at the expense of quality." The area manager will be given marketing tools needed to achieve their targets.

The RJ, added Al Thahabi, has been striving to upgrade the quality of its services. This included the opening of the City Terminal as a convenient alternative and the introduction of the Advanced Boarding Pass service in local sales offices this year. "The inflight meals are offered with a greater variety of healthier and lighter style foods and meals incorporating appropriate cultural themes."

The Business Class is said to be a major change introduced by RJ on the long haul routes to North America, Far East and Indian Subcontinent.

A new Denied Boarding

Compensation (DBC) system will be implemented as of the beginning of 1997. Accordingly, "passengers who are denied boarding will be offered monetary compensation which will consist of a Miscellaneous Charge Order (MCO) valid only on Royal Jordanian flights for a one-year period. The airline will provide hotel accommodation, meals, transportation and the ability to send a message or a phone call to the country of destination in case no same day flight could be arranged."

As to the safety measures adopted by RJ, Al Thahabi explained that the airline seeks to maintain the Safe Operations and high product standards. "Along with FAA and Bureau Veritas teams who regularly audit our engineering and maintenance facilities we have invited Boeing Safety team to audit most of our departments especially those directly related to safety," he said. This is in addition to the new safety board that has been formed recently.

The use of latest information technology to link the offices of the RJ was discussed. Al Thahabi said that "this will not only connect us to the rest of the world but will also dramatically lower our existing high Sita costs."

During the conference Mr. Majdi Sabri, the vice president commercial said that the change the RJ is seeking can only be realized by perseverance, innovation and active involvement. "We are today more convinced than ever before of the need to balance the geographical sources of revenue and to avoid over-reliance on particular markets," he added. ■

EC/Palestinian authority
sign interim agreement

AS A significant step in the Middle East peace process, the European Community (EC) initiated the Interim Agreement with the Palestinian National Authority which signals the recognition of Palestinian status as a full partner in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, launched in November 1995 at the Barcelona Conference.

The Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on Trade and Cooperation, initiated by Nabil Sha'ath, Minister of Economic Development and Planning on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, reinforces the message that the European Union sees the Palestinians as equal participants in the emerging Euro-Mediterranean space. It is similar to other association agreements signed with countries in the Mediterranean region but is

adapted to take into consideration the PLO special status, providing a wide range of economic and financial cooperation under a programme of support to Palestinian industry.

The agreement confirms the trade concessions which the EU has offered the Palestinians since 1986 and provides free trade within a transitional period of five years.

In the field of agriculture, the agreement confirms existing arrangement between the two signatories and calls for a review of the agricultural conditions after two years.

Both parties have agreed that the Interim Agreement will be reviewed once the targets set in the final status negotiations have been accomplished. ■

Boeing-McDonnell merger
makes competition tougherBy John Thor Dahlburg
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

PARIS—A month after popping champagne corks to toast a mega-deal with an American airline, Airbus Industrie, the world's No. 2 builder of civilian airliners, suddenly finds the skies over the United States a little less friendly.

The proposed merger announced last Sunday by two of its US rivals, Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, seems certain to create a gigantic, multitalented competitor that the Europe-based Airbus may find tough to go head-to-head against.

Uniting Boeing, already the world's leading aircraft manufacturer, with McDonnell Douglas will give it 200,000 employees, or five times as many as Airbus, and make it the world's largest aviation and aerospace company by far.

Industry analysts said it is likely that Airbus, which had been talking about reforming its organizational structure and widening its product line to compete with the Boeing 747, would be forced to react quickly to avoid being swamped by the mammoth new American company.

On the merger itself, Airbus had no official comment. Spokeswoman Barbara Kracht called Boeing's \$13.3 billion offer for McDonnell Douglas, which has yet to be approved by US antitrust regulators, "something happening between two American companies."

In the quarter-century since its creation, the four-nation European consortium—now looking like an Old World David challenging the American aerospace Goliath—has managed to carve out a 30 percent share of the world's airliner market.

At the beginning, Airbus had a single product to sell, the A-300, but it expanded to offer seven aircraft types. The one-time upstart became such a potent commercial force that during the first nine months of this year Airbus sold 255 jetliners to Boeing's 316 and McDonnell Douglas's 25.

Last month, Airbus officials raised their glasses to toast a firm order from USAir to buy 120 single-aisle airliners, a deal worth about \$5 billion, with options on 280 more aircraft. The French media enthusiastically reported the "historic order" from a traditional Boeing client.

Throughout the year, how-

ever, there were repeated warnings from European aviation and government officials that Airbus had to change or risk being caught in the jet wash of its competitors and the realities of an increasingly cutthroat market.

In May, ministers from the four Airbus consortium countries—France, Germany, Britain and Spain—agreed on the need to "modernize" the company, perhaps by privatizing it, and to develop a "super-jumbo" jet to compete with the Boeing 747.

"We have a common political interest in a competitive European aerospace industry," said Norbert Lammert, coordinator for aviation in the German Economics Ministry.

Critics of Airbus' structure say it prevents it from being as competitive as the manufacturer could be. Airbus was set up as an "economic interests group" by the European governments, with the major aircraft industries in the four member countries pooling their talents while continuing to remain independent. Airbus itself is responsible for the final assembly, sales and service.

The partners are allocated work in accordance with their

share in Airbus: 37.9 percent each for Aerospatiale of France and Daimler-Benz Aerospace of Germany; 20 percent for British Aerospace; and 4.2 percent for CASA of Spain. But opponents of this setup say it prevents Airbus from being as cost effective as it could be because the principle of "fair return" bars the consortium from contracting work out to cheaper suppliers.

This fall, Airbus officials said they were planning to transform the consortium into a private company by the end of the century, and the Boeing-McDonnell merger seems certain to intensify the pressures to do so. As a private company, proponents of the change say, Airbus could drive down costs and compete much more effectively.

US officials and business leaders often charge that the company's success has come in part because of subsidies dished out by the European governments. Airbus officials retort that they are paying back government loans at the rate of more than \$700 million a year and that defense contracts awarded by the Pentagon are a form of state support to US rivals such as Boeing and McDonnell Douglas. ■

Spareparts center opens
for Saab and Lancia

A CENTER for Saab and Lancia auto spare parts was opened recently at Bayader Wadi Al Seir, the industrial city, close to Natural Resources Authority.

Under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Ali Abul Ragheb, the center was opened by the Assistant Secretary General of the ministry, Dr. Mohammed Bani Hani.

It includes a huge expo hall, displaying modern and various models of Swedish Saab cars and Italian Lancia cars and their spare parts. It is equipped with advanced technical and electronic devices.

This center is one of the biggest services centers in the Middle East. Repair and maintenance is guaranteed for all types of Saab and Lancia cars in Jordan in a fast and facile process at the Center. The Center is supplied with a hall provided with entertainment facilities.

A press conference was held at the Marriott Hotel with the presence of Mr. Mousa Sukkigian, the general director of Saab cars, Mr. Lenart Swinson, the regional director for Saab in the Middle East, Mr. Mario Tomimbi, the regional director for Lancia cars in the Middle East, Mr. Khaled Al-Masri, the sales director for Lancia cars and Mr. Ahmed Karajah, the sales director for Saab cars. ■

MARKET WATCH 14-17 December

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan Int'l Trade Center 3.30 AI Razi Pharmaceuticals 1.67 Jordan Worst Mills 1.42 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Industries 4.73 National Industries 4.84 Intermediate Petrochemicals 3.64 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karwell Bank 5.20 Sulphochemicals 5.00 Pentastar Paper Covering 5.00 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nayzak Dies and Moulds 5.88 Central Trade 5.77 National Cables 5.20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAMCO 5.88 Trade Centers 5.88 Middle East Complex 5.71 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tajemco 5.77 National Commercial Center 4.17 Nayzak Dies and Moulds 3.92 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Financial 5.56 Tajemco 4.08 Financial Investments Ltd 1.37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Commercial Centers 2.17 Arab International Hotels 1.03 Arab Bank 0.39
General Price Pointer 152,740	152,789	153,240	153,540
Trade Volume 2269508	2938363	792823	2722562
Stock Volume 694368	1214781	895680	1212389
Highest Traded Stocks			
Arab Bank 1,172,900	Development Bank 1,184,591	The United for Organizing Transport 158,780	Arab Bank 1,051,550

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

Annan has spent life as international civil servant

Muhammed Sacirbey, Bosnia's ambassador to the United Nations and a frequent harsh critic of UN peacekeepers in his country, pointedly singles out Amman for restoring what the Muslims regarded as fairness to UN operations there. Sacirbey said: "People trust him because he is honest."

By John M. Goshko
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

UNITED NATIONS—Kofi Annan of Ghana, chosen last Friday to be the next UN secretary general, has spent his adult life as an international civil servant, shuttling around the world in sensitive but largely anonymous tasks for the United Nations.

The US-educated Annan, 58, is well-liked by colleagues with whom he has labored for three decades in the UN system in such little-noticed areas as budget analysis and personnel management. His style represents a big change from that of the current secretary general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, an imperious, high-profile Egyptian diplomat who could go months without talking to his key subordinates and who frequently treated the ambassadors of major powers condescendingly.

When Annan and his wife, a Swedish jurist turned full-time artist, move into the UN secretary general's impressive two-story house on Manhattan's posh Sutton Place, they will be moving from Roosevelt Island, a middle-class, largely reot-controlled housing project situated on the East River.

And many of his colleagues know Annan less for his work in the bureaucracy than for the years he spent as president of the United Nations International School, which his three children, now grown, attended when they were small.

It is too early to tell how a longtime UN bureaucrat like Annan will meet the chal-

lenges of guiding the world body into the 21st century.

He must help to map the priorities that the United Nations will follow in the post-Cold War period, find ways of getting the organization through the worst financial crisis in its 51-year history and satisfy US demands for far-reaching reforms.

It would be a tall order for someone with a far more distinctive record of success in diplomacy or politics. Now, given Annan's relative anonymity, there are questions about whether, as a creature of the system, he will have the boldness and imagination to lead a restructuring that the United States and its supporters hope will involve cutting large numbers of employees and eliminating many traditional UN practices and activities.

Yet, while even many experts in international affairs would have trouble recognizing his name, the soft-spoken Annan commands considerable respect among those who have seen him in action.

That has been especially true during the last three years when Annan held what has been at once the most vital and controversial job within the United Nations—head of peacekeeping activities in such trouble spots as Somalia and Bosnia.

Annan became undersecretary general for peacekeeping in 1993 at a time when the Bosnia operations had caused many conservative Republicans in Congress to become bitterly critical of Boutros-Ghali and his representative in Bosnia, Asahi Akashi, for their alleged appeasement of Serb aggression

against the Bosnian Muslims. So intense was their anger that it led the Clinton administration to conclude that relations between Congress and the United Nations could be repaired only if the United States vetoed Boutros-Ghali's re-election.

Nevertheless, by early this year, several Republican foreign policy strategists on Capitol Hill—among them aides to GOP presidential candidate Robert J. Dole—were enthusiastically saying that Annan, who personally went to Bosnia to take over from Akashi, would make a superb secretary general. Prompting their admiration was what they regarded as his even-handedness and skillful performance in guiding UN peacekeeping forces through the handoff last year to a NATO-led force.

Here at the United Nations, where the US veto of Boutros-Ghali caused great resentment among the other members, the endorsement of American conservatives should have been the kiss of death for anyone aspiring to the secretary general's office. But, when Annan was among four Africans who declared their candidacy last week, the universal perception of him as the "American candidate" did not stop him from sprinting into a lead.

"He brings a certain style to things," said a senior US diplomat, who declined to be identified, in discussing why Annan is able to appeal with such ease and popularity to American conservatives and Third World radicals. "He is respectful, he listens carefully, he is collegial, and he never loses sight of what is practical."

Muhammed Sacirbey, Bosnia's ambassador to the United Nations and a frequent harsh critic of UN peacekeepers in his country, pointedly singles out Amman for restoring what the Muslims regarded as fairness to UN operations there. Sacirbey said: "People trust him because he is honest."

Others cite Amman's sense of humor. During the maneuvering that preceded his election, France raised questions about whether he speaks French. Annan's colleagues say that when asked him about it, Annan replied in lilting West African tones, "I now speak English with a French accent."

Born into a family of traditional tribal chiefs, he began his education in Ghana and, with the aid of a Ford Foundation grant, left home in 1959 to study at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics. He later studied at the Institut Universitaire de Haute Etudes Internationales in Geneva and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which awarded him a master's degree in management.

Annan entered the UN system in 1959 by



joining the World Health Organization. In the 1970s, he returned home for two years to head Ghana's tourism development board. But the rest of his adult life has been spent with the United Nations and its affiliated agencies, either here in New York or in its outposts in Addis Ababa, Cairo, Islamabad and Geneva. Annan's wife, Nane Lagergren, is the daughter of a noted international jurist and the niece of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who rescued thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis before disappearing into what is believed to have been Soviet imprisonment and death at the end of World War II. ■

Literati live paper-thin existence in Hussein's Iraq

Now Iraq is a gray, sullen, isolated place of imposing monuments and vainglorious palaces, where a doctor's monthly salary is equal to the price of 30 eggs, where medical research has all but stopped and where photographers and painters cannot afford even the film or paint to pursue their art.

By John Daniszewski
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

BAGHDAD—Sajeda Mousawi describes herself as a mother and a lover, someone who yearns through her poetry to celebrate the sublime and beautiful miracle of everyday life. She abhors sadness and suffering and tries to banish it from her mind.

Yet when she sat down to write her contribution for this year's Arab poetry festival in Baghdad, her pen couldn't do that.

Mousawi found herself dwelling instead on a tragedy—common enough in the seventh year of the world economic embargo against Saddam Hussein's Iraq. In her poem, a lover of literature is reduced to selling his library on the street in order to live.

For a country that had long been considered one of the most literate and cultured in the Middle East, her poem is a poignant emblem of the failed hopes and broken dreams of a generation of educated Iraqis.

"I am a woman who has sold much of my gold, my earrings, my furniture, for medicine and food," said Mousawi, who has five daughters and whose monthly salary as secretary of a cultural club connected to a state-run newspaper translates to \$10. "This embargo is destroying whole classes of our society."

Much has been written about the hospitals without medicine and the children perishing of hunger here, but something else also is dying between the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers: a cosmopolitan world of culture, art and intellect that had been one of the brightest lights of Arab society.

There were doctors and scientists, poets and painters, teachers and students, who once traveled and entertained, shared witty conversation in Baghdad cafes, enjoyed good food and middle-class comforts similar to those of Europe or the United States; they felt safely part of the larger world of intellectual discourse.

Today they are trapped between a totalitarian government and a world's indignation, impoverished by more than six years of economic embargo, feeling shunned and abandoned by counterparts abroad and humiliated to join the hordes in the mar-



ketplaces, where they shed a lifetime of accumulated possessions and they despair of what will happen when there is nothing left to pawn.

They exist under the shadow of their leader, "his excellency, the victorious, the glorious President Saddam Hussein," who is rarely seen but is an omniscient, domi-

nating presence. He appears every night on television; his face graces the front of every newspaper; he smiles or glowers from portraits in front of every important building.

When Hussein took power in 1979, their country, with the world's second-

largest oil reserves, was flush with money from the boom '70s to spend on arts and culture. Universities were built, world-class teaching hospitals were established, and Iraq became a magnet for painters, poets and other artists from across the Arab world.

Now Iraq is a gray, sullen, isolated place of imposing monuments and vainglorious palaces, where a doctor's monthly salary is equal to the price of 30 eggs, where medical research has all but stopped and where photographers and painters cannot afford even the film or paint to pursue their art.

But if Iraqis question the wisdom of their leadership, they do not do so in their literature or their art. They especially do not mock or criticize Hussein.

In a report last week, the New York-based organization Human Rights Watch said that UN monitors started 1996 with 16,100 unresolved cases of Iraqi "disappearances," more than for any UN member state. Intellectuals have been the pride of the regime, but they are also among the chief targets of purges.

So pervasive are the secret police, so common is informing even on one's relatives, and so closely are Western visitors monitored, that in more than a dozen interviews with Iraqis from the world of the intelligentsia, only one person took the risky step of revealing the slightest unhappiness with the government.

The others did not sulk on expressing despair at the country's decay but always were careful to voice it in anger at the West—particularly the United States—for maintaining the embargo that is ruining their country.

"I don't want to indulge in politics. ... I only wonder, why does America kill my people?" journalist-poet Abdel Moneim Hamandi said, with evident sincerity, in a typical refrain. Last week UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali eased the sanctions slightly, giving the go-ahead for Iraq to resume oil exports to buy food and medicine for its people.

Rather than try to work in the crumbling shells of their institutes or test the limits of their artistic license, many of Iraq's most respected thinkers have fled, swelling the ranks of refugees in Jordan and elsewhere, free to work but pining for their old Bag-

dad haunts.

"Some people found out that they don't have enough freedom to write and talk and express themselves, and I am one of those," said Saad Bazzaz, former editor-in-chief of the state newspaper *Al-Jumhuriyah*. He fled Oct. 2, 1992, when he became convinced that he had been marked for death for having written a book critical of the Iraq's military conduct in the 1991 Gulf War.

Speaking of fellow intellectuals still inside Iraq, Bazzaz said they are forced to develop "double personalities"—a public persona that agrees and praises the government and a private one that dissents but is almost never shown, and then only to the most trusted. It is a matter of survival, for which no one should blame them, he added.

The government works hard at keeping up a pretense of normal intellectual life by sponsoring gatherings like the seven-day Al-Mirbad poetry festival and bragging about how many countries attend. Although they wear the turtlenecks and berets that might be expected among participants at such an event, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz wore his black beret atop a military uniform with gold epaulettes to open the festival—which, like every other public gathering in Iraq, was used as a forum to denounce "the siege."

"We are not exterminated," Aziz declared, standing in front of a sepia-toned picture of a young Hussein. "Those who wanted us dead find us alive. Those who wanted us silent find us free to speak. ... Your attendance in Baghdad proves that the nation's pulse beats on."

It is true that poets have not stopped writing, but the subjects have changed.

"I turned away from poetry about love and started to write about hunger," said journalist-poet Abdel Moneim Hamandi, a 42-year-old admirer of Walt Whitman and T.S. Eliot. "We write about the lack of medicine and the spreading of collective death. How else can a poet feel, when faced with such suffering?"

A magazine columnist, Hassan al-Anni, wrote about how pure weariness and depression had sapped his creativity. "My fingers have stiffened and my language becomes weak."

In addition to his regular writing, he explained, "I am obliged to take time out of my sleeping hours to be part of the queue of sellers on the side of the street selling cigarettes."

Before the Gulf War, the state publishing house would issue 1,200 books a year; now the number is 40. Daily newspaper circulation used to be 850,000; now it is 90,000. There used to be 65 periodicals; now there are fewer than a dozen, according to Information Minister Hamid Youssef Hammadi. Iraq's intellectuals, unlike those of Communist-era Poland or Czechoslovakia or those in France in the late 1960s, do not seem to dream of leading their people in revolt. The unstated but widely understood intent of the West's squeeze on living conditions.

"Even you could not do it," said the one academic who would speak about such things, referring to widely reported attempts by the CIA to fund an anti-Hussein coup. "How are we supposed to get rid of him?" ■

Iraqi poets face dim choice: Serve the state or flee

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Inside Iraq, some artists have chosen to act as tribunes for the regime, receiving honors, money and official titles such as "Poet of the Mother of All Battles" in return for producing works that serve the state.

The Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties were lucky, because Caliph al-Nasir were born only in the 19th century, with the decline of the poem, read out at a recent poetry festival, which was sponsored by the government.

Because of shared language and history, Arabic culture is like an ocean in which books, music and ideas flow with unhindered by political boundaries. That huge culture that is Iraq, with its prehistoric cities of Baghdad and Basra, has been for at least 1,000 years one of the most important centers, says Egyptian literary critic Gamal Chalabi.

"Iraqi poets Mohammed Mahdi Jassas and 'Abdul Wahab Bayati' have now in exile in neighboring countries are considered throughout the Arab world the greatest contemporary poets of the 20th century. Architect of the new Iraq, regularly who read the poetry of the 20th century, the new generation produces a new crop of poets, like Youssef al-Khatib, who lives in Yassaf, or even-garlic dramatists like Ibrahim al-Sayid, who lives in Baghdad."

"Those who remain in Iraq keep their heads down and do not write about the regime," said the poet.

"Sometimes we lack even the paper to write a poem. This creates a sort of silence," he said. "The embargo doesn't stop me from writing, but I still have to think of subjects or themes of poems, so my work is not free."



Uday recuperates in hospital after attack

UDAY HUSSEIN, the eldest son of the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, appeared on Iraqi television, Tuesday, for the first time after an assassination attempt was made on his life.

Lying in a hospital bed, he told Al Shabab television that he was feeling fine.

Uday was visited by a Qatari envoy, who was identified as son of the Qatari Emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Diplomats said that Uday was in a serious but not critical condition. The attack on his life was made last Thursday. He immediately underwent several operations by Iraqi doctors who pulled out bullets from his chest, abdomen, shoulder and grenade shrapnel from his head. ■



Books a dear commodity in cash-strapped Iraq

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

BAGHDAD—Iraq's literati hawk their belongings and struggle to survive. El Saray Street, once a thriving district of book sellers and stationers, has become a symbol of the cultural decline.

Each Friday, professors, writers, engineers and students can be found selling off their libraries on its sidewalk, raising the inflation-depleted dinars necessary to supplement meager state salaries. A cornucopia of knowledge is shabbily arrayed on pallets or cloths lying on the sidewalk—hundreds of books, many in French and English, ranging from old textbooks and encyclopedias to plays by Shakespeare, novels of Dickens and treatises on Western philosophy. The buyers are scarce; the only people who

seem to have money in this society are those connected to the regime or the black market.

"People here consider their books like their children. But what can they do?" said Kadhim Talal, 51, a trader on his way to evaluate a library being sold from an elderly couple's home.

"I stopped going to that street," said Azhar Azawi, a translator and university professor. "I can't bear it for two reasons: I can't bear to see people selling their books, and I can't stand to see the books that I myself cannot afford to buy."

Samir Abu Ziad, a government worker, went one day to sell a favorite book of poems.

"I almost began to cry," he recalled. "I took my book and ran away." ■



Christmas in Amman

An auspicious occasion

By Manal Omar
Special to The Star

IT'S THE season to be jolly, and signs of the Christmas spirit can be seen throughout Jordan. From the festive Christmas trees and gingerbread houses decorating hotel lobbies to the glimpses of Santa Clause, the festivities have begun.

No matter what activities are planned this Christmas, Jordan promises it will be one to be remembered. The aroma of fresh baked gingerbread cookies and the sounds of Christmas carols will delightfully bring in the new year.

One of the unique features of Christmas in Jordan is that the birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated on three different occasions. The different sectors of Christianity in Jordan celebrate it in their unique way, making the entire month filled with joyous activities and festivities. On 24-25 December the western style Christmas is celebrated in Amman while a traditional Middle Eastern Christmas is celebrated in outer villages.

During 6-7 January, the Greek Orthodox celebrate their Christmas with the community. On 18 January, the Armenian community hold their ceremonies. As a result, Christmas in Jordan and the Palestinian region is an extended season that captures the whole community.

At the same time, the many different Christian communities add a different flavor to Christmas celebrations. The American embassy shares their traditional way of celebrating with



the Jordanian community. On 15 December, they held an open reception with Christmas treats followed by a concert from the Blues Moon Band. The French community also add their traditional Christmas celebrations to the community hosting a number of activities to participate in the festivities. The German community in Jordan started one of their traditional rituals which includes lighting a candle four weeks in advance and maintaining the count-down until the arrival of Christmas.

Another distinguishing feature of a Jordanian Christmas is that it is near to the original place of the birth of Christ—Bethlehem. This adds a historical significance to the celebrations in Jordan. Many Christians in the community choose the option of spending the special religious occasion where Christmas originally started. A tour of Bethlehem and Beit Sahoor make spending the holidays in the Holy Land a monumental experience.

Marriott hotel assures all children that Santa is available to hear their Christmas lists and have their pictures taken. Especially for adults, Forte Grand had Austrian musicians flown in to provide traditional Christmas carols, with a full promotion of food, schnapps, and beer.

Hotels are not the only ones providing options to spend the Christmas season in Amman. This year the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) have contributed to the spirit of Christmas. The YWCA has also planned a Christmas agenda for the community, families, and friends.

In preparation for the season, YWCA held a Christmas Sweets and Cake Bake Sale at the end of November. The bake sale was organized by the Student's Loan Committee and held in Mrs. Daniel Khouri's home in Abdoun. All proceeds were donated to the fund for educational loans. In addition, YWCA's own Association Band presented their annual Classical Music Concert between 5-8 December. They performed popular Christmas carols at the Royal Cultural Center. These activities served as an introduction to the many festivities to come.

Perhaps one of the most spiritual experiences of a Christmas in Jordan is the traditional



village celebrations. The magic of celebrating the birth so near the historical place of Bethlehem adds to the overall beauty of the festivities. These traditions have remained an intricate part of Jordanian Christian villages, and have remained unchanged for centuries. In a traditional Jordanian Christmas, there is no Christmas trees and stockings. The spirituality of Christmas is emphasized in one of the rituals which entails visiting the graves of ancestors

on the morning of Christmas. Members of the family present coffee and sweets at the grave, as a sign of respect and remembrance of their forefathers. The ceremony is followed by families and friends exchanging visits and children receiving gifts. Throughout Jordan the many different options to celebrate the season promise a merry Christmas. Jordan offers a unique glimpse into one of the most celebrated holidays in the world.

What's On

Al-Qasar Hotel

□ Dec 24, 25 & 26. A Great XMAS Surprise—Enjoy xmas in an original oriental atmosphere. The decoration, Fairouz music, even buffet makes you find xmas in its original real Arabic theme.

□ New Year's Eve at Oscars—Outstanding buffet and live entertainment by the Cilano Band, Hadi Abdel-Hamid and his band.



Cellar

□ Dec 24—Christmas dinner will be available with great entertainment.

□ New Year's Eve entertainment from DJ Stallion, Cilano band, and Ilham Madfaie and a very rich seated dinner.

CHAMPIONS

□ Breakfast at Champions. New all star buffet. All you can eat. Also open New Year's Day.

□ Season of the Champions—Book your office Christmas party at Champions and treat your staff to a three course lunch, party favors, and lots of fun.

□ Dec 19—The Christmas Bash. Santa invite you to play howling holly games. Costumes a must. Free glass of egg bug. Party begins at 10:30pm.

□ New Year Eve—Black tie and best outfits. International buffet. Glass of bubbly to welcome 1997.

FORTE GRAND

□ Dec 1—Christmas Tree Lighting—Come join the staff at Forte Grand as they decorate and light the Christmas tree.

□ Dec 17 to the 27—Austrian Promotion. For the first time Christmas carols will be performed by Austrian musicians flown in especially for the season. The Austrian promotion will be made complete with food, schnapps, and beer during the festivities.

□ Dec 20th—Schnapps and Beer Festival. As part of the Austrian promotion, come and enjoy the festival.

□ Dec 31—New Year's Eve Extravaganza. A well-prepared

Continued on page 8

Season's greetings from Kan Zaman village

KAN ZAMAN is dedicating this festive season to preparing a joyful Christmas and New Year with special activities that will keep everyone entertained during the holiday season.

On 13 December, Kan Zaman has set its Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony to feature a hand bell choir "The Kingdom Ringers," a symphonic Christmas band and complimentary Ginger Cookies and seasonal beverages like Sahlab, A-Nar and Apple Cider. Everyone is, of course, invited to the village at 6:00 pm for a great start to the season's activities.

On 24 December, chefs at the village have planned for a delightful X-mas Eve Dinner to celebrate the traditional evening at Sahtala Restaurant. A delicious selection of

Christmas specialties that include a wide variety of salads, appetizers, as well as turkey, buttered vegetables and lamb and chicken specialties can be enjoyed with the live Christmas music of Nidal Al Jafari to entertain everyone through out the evening. These are just some of the treats awaiting everyone there!

On 25 December, the village will be waiting for everyone for Kan Zaman's traditional family buffet X-Mas Day Lunch. Santa Clause will be handing out presents for the little ones, while live music by the Lyons band will entertain everyone through out lunch time.

On 31 December, it will be the night that everyone is waiting for to celebrate the 1977 New Year. Kan Zaman

promises a great New Year's Eve party with lots of fun and features music by the Hawks Band with lead singer Lo'ay Hisari. A special four course seated gourmet dinner and raffle prizes await all guests at the village.

Finally, start the New Year, 1 January, 1997, with an All Day Brunch (11 am-

5pm) with your family and friends. Hot and cold beverages, pastries, omelets, salads, pastas, chicken and deserts, are only some of the items on the buffet for everyone to enjoy. At 4 pm the Grand Raffle drawing for the holiday season raffle tickets will take place.

Wishing you and your family
a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year



Kan Zaman Village - Tel: 736-449



Arabesque Cafe offers golden cards

Over the last two years, Arabesque Cafe, which is one of the most reputable cafes in Amman, has distinguished itself offering its customers unrivalled top services. Such services, together with the Cafe's unique location, have provided an extra charm to Arabesque.

The owner of Arabesque Cafe, Mr. Nasir Khanfar, is in pursuit of new ideas to conclude the year 1996 by another success and strong existence in the memory of the Cafe's customers.

The Cafe's staff has distributed cards for its permanent customers giving them a special discount in every visit to Arabesque.

The number of visits is registered in a special record for Golden Arabesque card holders. Those will be rewarded at a special ceremony to be held by the end of this month at the Cafe's premises in Shmeisani, Amman.

This winter, Arabesque provides a warm Arabic atmosphere, where customers can enjoy listening to genuine songs and soft music. Winter drinks are as usual on the menu. Always seeking customers' comfort, Arabesque offers them an indoor car park.



Radio Shack

Authorized Distributor 685657



30% Discount on all toys

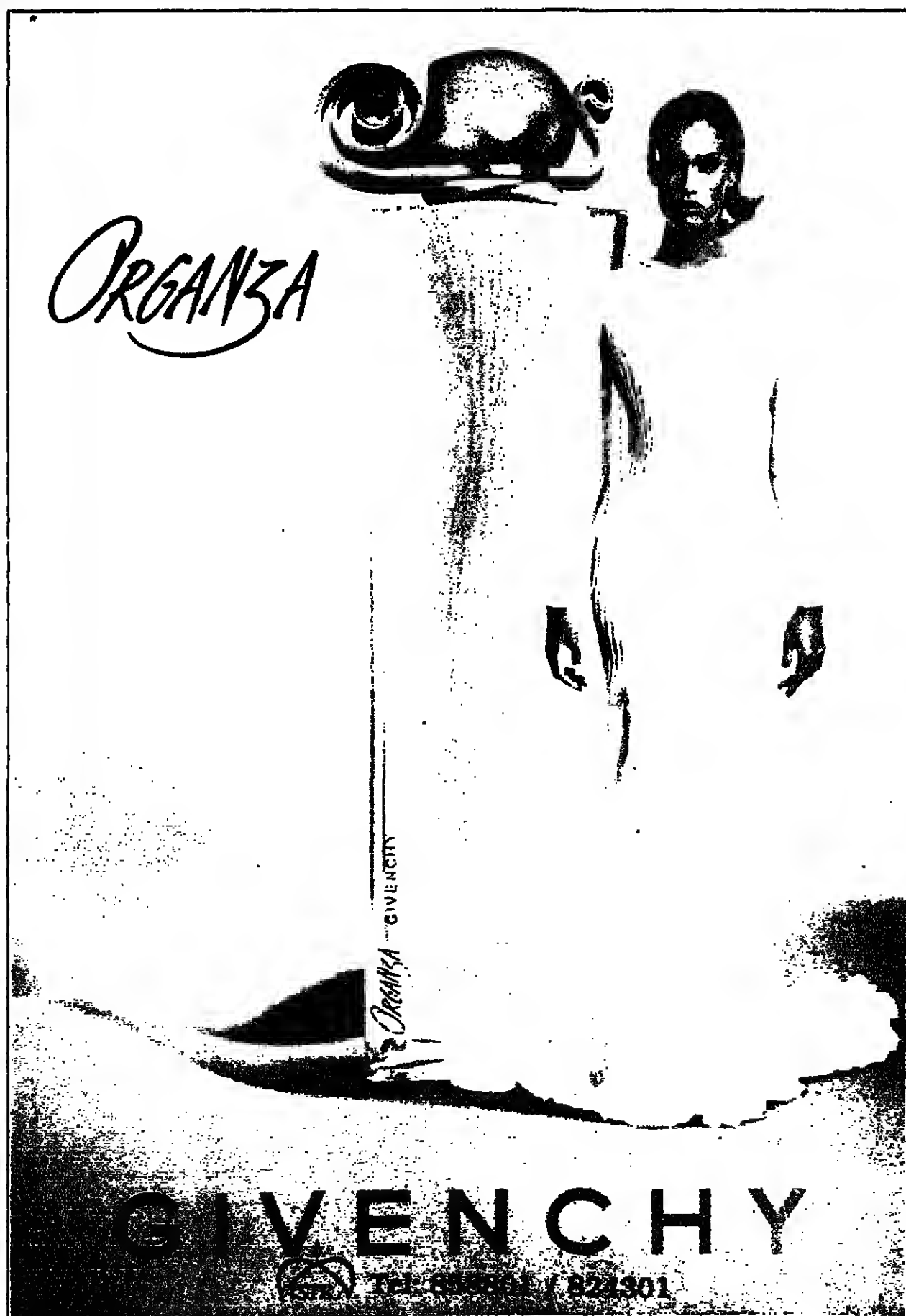
What do kids really want for Christmas?



Main Branch
Gardens St.

Toys Shop
Alahlia-Ahela

(Soon)
Sweifich Branch





What's On

Continued from page 7

seated dinner and many raffle prizes are just the start of the night. Entertainment from renowned singers Mustafa Qamar and Waleed Tawfiq.

Jerusalem International

- Children's Christmas Party - December 22, open for all children.
- Christmas Buffet - December 25, lunch buffet.
- New Year's Eve at Al Khayma Bar - all inclusive dinner and entertainment.
- New Year's Eve Bash - In the Royal Hall and Al Andulus Hall. Seated Dinner. Live entertainment with Jihan, the belly dancer and Lebanese singer Gina Moheb.

JORDAN INTERCONTINENTAL

- Dec 15 - Christmas Tree Lighting. The ceremony will feature Christmas carols, a giant gingerbread house, and complimentary Gluhwein, hot chocolate, pudding, mince pies, and other goodies.
- Dec 15 - Santa's Coming to Town. Children can meet and take photographs with Santa between 4pm and 5:30pm.
- Dec 18: Children's Christmas Party. Santa Clause, a clown, and a magician celebrate the season with the kids.
- Christmas Dinner at Okaz - Christmas Buche Glace and other treats await you.
- Christmas Eve Dinner at Mama Juanita - celebrate the Mexican way.
- Christmas Cart at Cafe Boulevard - With Irish coffee and

Continued on page 9

Combining art and craft at one place

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

THE ARTS and Crafts Center (Artisana), established last year, is one of the distinguished places in Jordan for presenting traditional handicrafts at their best. Its work is focused on reshaping the traditional styles in a way to suit the

modern needs. "As we keep up with modern requirements, we try to maintain the soul of tradition in our handicrafts," said Sharifa Hind Bint Nasser, director and founder of the center.

At Artisana, one lives the experience of the past among a wide variety of carefully-designed hand-made wares.

These range from weavings, cushions, and embroidery to pottery, ceramics and recreated museum pieces. This is in addition to the hand blown glass and bedouin jewellery and more.

Artisana, said Sharifa Nasser, is having a special collection for Christmas this year. To add to the festivity of the event, the

center will invite people to enjoy hot traditional Jordanian winter-drinks. This program will remain until the end of the year.

In the words of the Sherifa, the objective of the center goes beyond mere profit. It seeks to establish a unique experience in art production. She added "that the designs of the handicrafts are decided according to the needs of the audience." "It is not a gift shop because what we are doing is to convince people of the originality of the designs and make them appreciate



our art." The growing interest in establishing handicraft centers can be seen as an interesting phenomenon nowadays. In Amman there are a large number of centers of the same kind which work on the traditional

styles of handicrafts. This is in a way one aspect of preservation of heritage yet this can not be far from commercialization.

Our tradition abounds with artistic creations that can inspire the modern designers to produce what can serve as a cultural identity for the country. Moreover, these centers can play a greater role in attracting tourists to the country by presenting the essence of the tradition while keeping in mind the development that took place regarding handicrafts.

"In Jordan we do not have handicraft designers per se who might have left an impact on this field of art," Nasser explained. There are general specifications that we follow in the process of creation but they do not come at the expense of the individual touch that distinguishes the products of one center from the other, she

added. The visitor of Jabal Amman area would notice that there are more than one handicraft center situated there. Asking Nasser on the reason, she said that these centers play a complementary role and not otherwise. "It is easier for shoppers and tourists to visit one area embracing more than one handicraft center."

In addition to her touch in the designs of the handicrafts, Nasser is an accomplished painter in Jordan. Running currently at the center is her new exhibition featuring images from the Jordanian desert. "The paintings depict engravings on the rocks scattered all over the Jordanian desert and alphabets and human and animal pictures," she said. "I try to give the feeling that lies behind these images which are simple but the background is important."

Organza from Givenchi available in the market

IN A press conference held by the Astra Corporation for Commercial Agencies, Mr Emad Tayah provided

the audience with an attractive description of the new perfume Organza by Givenchi.

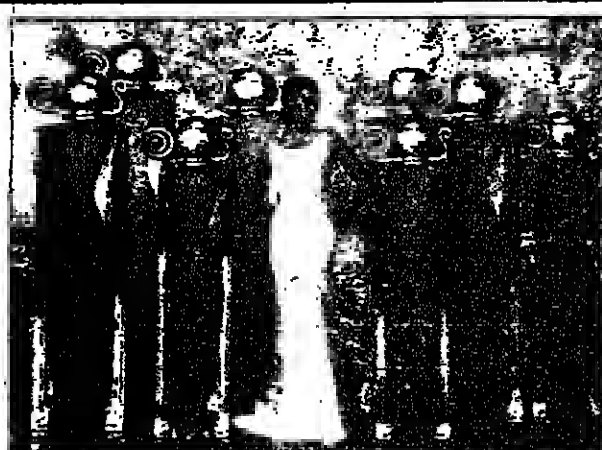
It is a private collection that combines more than one aroma. This perfume carries the scents of gardenia mixed with genuine lily. Added to its special charm is its affordability.

The press conference was attended by Mr Françoise Janin and Mr Benjot Rocurrol from Givenchi. They arrived in Amman especially

to introduce organza to the Jordanian markets.

Organza came on the market in France and some Middle East countries last July.

In Jordan, it is available at well-known pharmacies, cosmetics centres and at the Astra Corporation show in Garden's Street (Bahjat Gardens). ■

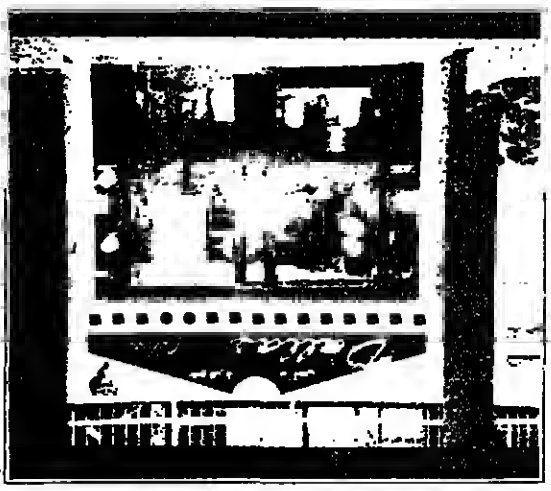


Christmas diamonds shine at Dallas Jewelry



THE RECENTLY established Fine jewelry store in Shemisani at Al-Hamrah Building is a remarkable place to visit. There, you can glaze your eyes with the wide varieties of diamonds that will cherish special moments and make them last for ever.

Mr Bashir Hashem will assist discerning ladies in choosing what is best for their taste. He says that each lady has her own touch in selecting the valuables which reflect her personality. The store includes a wide range of precious, semi-precious stones, birth stones as well as pearls. One stop at this elegantly decorated store will indeed make the difference in one's life. One will experience what she has longed for to last forever. ■



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A four course Mexican Christmas menu is the only way to celebrate this season! JD15,000 ++
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25th CHRISTMAS DAY
Christmas Day wouldn't be the same without the traditional family brunch at The Grand Ballroom.
Santa will be waiting for the family, handing out stockings full of goodies and gifts for kids.
Meanwhile the live music and raffle prizes will entertain you throughout our appealing Christmas Brunch Buffet. From 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. JD 15,000 ++ Children under 12 at half price.
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Classic comeback

Spotlight shines on tried-and-true toys

By Jodi Duckett
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

IT'S A refrain heard often at this time of the year.

"They don't make toys like they used to."

But they do, lots of them, and this is one holiday season you just might notice.

There's no Cabbage Patch doll, no Power Ranger action figure, no blockbuster toy at all to hog the attention. So the tried and true are getting their due.

Some are calling it a classic comeback.

But by virtue of their definition, the classics never really went away.

Take Uncle Milton's Ant Farm, for instance.

"We were always cool," said spokesman Caryl Svendsen, "but in the absence of these mega-branding products, we shine a little more."

The Ant Farm is celebrating its 40th birthday and the company is actually bragging that the plastic habitat for watching live ants create their world is virtually the same as it was in 1956.

It's not the only one. Celebrating its 30th anniversary with changes that have amounted to little more than an updated box and spinner is Milton Bradley's Twister.

And, to mark the 40th anniversary of Yahtzee, Milton Bradley has released a commemorative edition with foil-stamp packaging and a leather-like throwing tray with matching dice cup. It's not much different than the original.

Lincoln Logs turned 80 this year, a good time for PlaySkool to remind parents that the simple Wild West building set was actually invented by John Lloyd Wright, son of architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The logs are still made of wood and a commemorative edition is available in the dark, rosewood color reminiscent of the original product.

Also on the cusp of its own 80th anniversary is Radio Flyer, the maker of the original little red wagon.

The blockbuster movie "Toy Story," with its cast of classics like Mr. Potato Head and Etch A Sketch, is credited for helping to remind people about the play value of some of the old

standards. Some of the toys have special "Toy Story" editions.

While many of the classic toys have been selling steadily for years, some are experiencing a resurgence in popularity.

Like Gummy.

The first time anybody saw the flexible green clayboy was

in 1956 on the Howdy Doody Show. He was a sensation, his happy-go-lucky, caring and honest personality appealing to both young and old. Today, he's a hit among a new generation, inspired in part by the Gummy television show on Nickelodeon and Gummy movie on home video.

To mark Gummy's 40th birthday, Trendmasters has issued more than a dozen new products, including play sets which are the first ever Gummy items advertised on television.

Toy industry observers find nothing surprising about the continued interest in these classics.

"I think the thing that's really significant is that play and children haven't changed," said Christopher Byrne, editor of *Market Focus: Toys* magazine.

"And with toys, unlike other things, your audience changes so quickly."

But what makes a toy a classic?

"Staying power, kind of a universal appeal that seems to transcend a specific time and place," said Frank Reysen, editor of *Playthings* magazine.

"Another definition might be one that has made it through a generation if a parent is buying a toy that the parent played with," said David Berko, vice president for business development at Tyco Toys, whose classic lines include Matchbox cars, Magna Doodle, the Magic 8 Ball and Booby Trap game.

So if a classic toy is one that

remains popular for a long time, what are the ingredients that create that longevity?

"If we knew that answer, it would be very good. I don't think you can pinpoint it," Berko said. "As with any successful toy, there has to be play value, it has to be fun."

Noted Byrne: "If you look at a classic, it is something that is generally not complete without the child. A woman who is a vice-president at Pressman games recently said, 'The last thing we need is another game that you wind up, walk out of the room and say, 'Did I win?''"

One thing is certain, said Berko.

"Nobody creates anything for a short life. Everybody creates everything to be a blockbuster and then a classic."

Many of the tried-and-true, however, go through periodic facelifts to keep them fresh.

"They (manufacturers) update, but they also want to maintain the traditional appeal, while giving the appearance of newness," Reysen said.

Mattel's Barbie is a case study in that phenomenon.

A top seller for all of its 37

years, Barbie undergoes continuous reincarnation. This year, she's a Pet Doctor with a dog that arts and a cat that meows, as well as a scuba diver who swims with her baby whale friend Kelko of "Free Willy" fame.

The same goes for the Lego Toy Company, which has introduced 81 new products this year, comprising nearly half of its total line. Its new Wild West assortment, the company's sixth play theme, is one of the holiday season's top sellers.

Tyco has been keeping its Sesame Street line of preschool toys as fresh as the classic television show. Its talking and giggling Tickle Me Elmo is one of the season's hottest toys.

Even Uncle Milton's Ant Farm knows the drill. The company is offering some new ant farms, such as the Ant Farm Village, which features a colorful ant-sized village square with shops, gazebo, cars and trees.

Even some of the most popular toys

of recent years are those designed for classic play.

K'Nex, an award-winning construction system, has become a staple among construction toys since it debuted at the nation's largest toy retailers in 1993.

Selling briskly is the year-old Tea Bunnies line by Kidview, children's tea party sets comprised of tiny bunnies, bunny-sized tea cups, child-sized tea cups, saucers and miniature goodies.

"What's new about it? Really nothing," explained Byrne. "It's just a new iteration. It's just a design. Tea sets are really just a classic plaything."

Top 10 toys bestsellers list

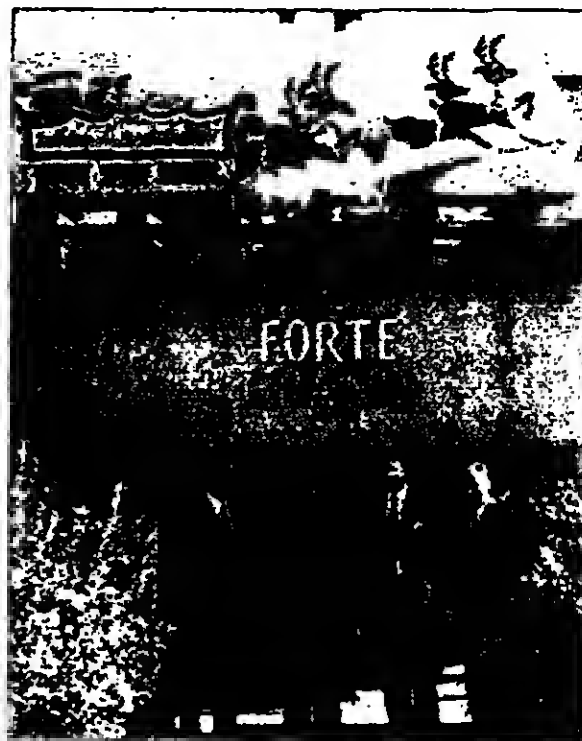
1. Barbie (Mattel)
2. Star Wars (Hasbro)
3. Nintendo 64 (Nintendo)
4. Baby Go Bye Bye (Hasbro)
5. Batman (Hasbro)
6. Safari (Sega)
7. Tickle Me Elmo (Tyco)
8. Beanie Babies (Jelly, Inc.)
9. Wild West LEGO System (Lego)
10. K'nex in Packages (K'nex)

Thrust team comes to Forte Grand in March

UNFORTUNATELY, THE weather halted the Thrust SSC Land Speed record attempt in 1996. Highly disappointed that they will have to wait until at least 2, March, 1997 for the Al-Jafr desert to dry again, Richard Noble promised Amman Kana'an, General Manager of Fort Grand Amman that he would be back to finish the job.



Despite setbacks with weather and technical problems with the steering, the team remained highly optimistic that their goal would be achieved in Jordan. In no small way this will be made possible by the tremendous support, afforded by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and the Royal Jordanian Airforce.



From left are Andy Green (Driver), Mark Timbrell (Director of Sales & Marketing Forte Grand Amman), Amman Kana'an (General Manager Forte Grand Amman) and Richard Noble (Project Leader of Thrust).



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Here comes the red season!

Rugs *Cushions *Wallhangings
*Weavings

A variety of gift items, produced specially for this occasion is on display at the Bani Hamida House

Jabal Amman, 1st circle, Rainbow st.
Open daily from 8:00 till 5:00 including
Fridays & official holidays
Tel: 65869677

JORDAN RIVER DESIGNS SHOWROOM

Home made ornaments and decorations for the Festival Season
Introducing gift items, baskets, candles, table cloths, runners and many other embroidered items

JRD Showroom is located at Jabal Amman, First Circle, Tel: 65869677

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Starts with breakfast on Friday 20th
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Some Thoughtful Gift Ideas for Christmas

Robert's picture framed collection individually framed — JD 15	PETRA A pictorial & Information Book Photos by A. Khammash — JD 15
DESIGN Fashion Collection — JD 45.00	RUBAYAT EL KHAYYAM The Penguin Edition — JD 73.800
DANIELLE STEEL "CRIMINAL MIND" The Woman on the Edge — JD 31.800	SENSE & SENSIBILITY The Book & Video — JD 49.00
SAHARA By KINGMACHEL — JD 41.500	Beethoven all the symphonies in one box of C.D. — JD 39.800
The Sahara Collection A Great Collection of Oriental Art — JD 22.800	HITS of 95 Top pops through the year in one C.D. — JD 19.800

Amman Bookshop
Jabal Amman - Insurance Building Tel: 644013



What's On

Continued from page 8

Christmas treats there is so much to choose from.
□ Dec 25 - Christmas Day Brunch - Santa will be waiting for the family, handing out gifts for the kids. Enjoy the buffet with live entertainment and many raffle prizes.
□ New Year's Eve Party - Legendary singer Sabah Fakhri and DJ all night. Valuable prizes can be won all night.
□ New Year's Eve at El-Pasha Club - live entertainment from the Blow-Up Band and oriental belly dancer.

KAN ZAMAN

□ Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Dinner - At the Sabtain Restaurant, a seasonal dinner will be served with live Christmas music from Nidal Al-Ja'fari.
□ Dec 25 - Christmas Day Lunch - A Christmas lunch buffet with Santa Claus handing out presents to the children. Live music by the Lyons Band.
□ New Year's Countdown Party - Music will be performed by the Hawks Band with their lead singer Loay Hisari. Great raffle prizes and a four course seated dinner.
□ Jan 1 - New Year Family Brunch - An all day brunch from 11am to 5pm with a variety of dishes at the buffet. A grand raffle drawing will be held at 4pm.

MARRIOTT

□ Sweet Tidings We Bring - Marriott pastry shop offers gingerbread cookies, Christmas puddings, Buche de Noel, and more.
□ Dec 18 - Meet Santa - Starting Dec 18 Santa Claus will be available in the lobby to meet kids.
□ Do You Hear What I Hear? - Come listen to local school children perform Christmas carols in the lobby.
□ Share Your Christmas - Children are encouraged to bring candy in a self made box on Dec 23 or 24. Santa will ride the Marriott truck on the 25 to give the gifts to local orphans.
□ Bonfire on Christmas Eve - Come relax in front of a warm fire as you sit cozily by candlelight, enjoying gingerbread cookies and a selection of mince pies with Christmas carols in the background.
□ Christmas Lunch Ballroom - Come and enjoy a special buffet especially catered for the season.
New Year's Eve Buffet - Al-Mansaf has a New Year's buffet prepared to bid farewell to the past year.

SALUTE

□ Casa Girelli - Italian Wine night. Every Tuesday in December enjoy Cheese & Wine.
□ Qassim every Saturday night sponsored by Union Tobacco and Viceroy.
□ Dec 31: New Year's Eve Party - At Salute. When the clock strikes midnight, the place to celebrate will be Salute.



Continued on page 10

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
JET SET
Unisex Casual Wear

Calvin Klein Jeans

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MILANO

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WHAT'S ON

Continued from page 9

REGENCY PALACE

Christmas at the Regency - Come enjoy the season with the Regency hotel. Live entertainment by singer Hiba Farah and belly dancer Nawal.

New Year's Eve Party - Bring in the new year at the Regency. Live entertainment by singer Hanan Kfour and belly dancer Nawal.

VILLA D'ANGELO

Enjoy a healthy and fresh salad bar with Italian cuisine everyday except Fridays this Christmas season.

Dec 31 - New Year's Party at D'Angelo. Bring in the new year with superb cuisine and the excellent staff.



Alternative gifts aid global causes

By Inara Verzemnieks
LATimes-Washington Post
News Service

WASHINGTON—This year, Greg and Kathy Knudson of Brookville, Md., made some significant changes to their customary Christmas list, including for the first time items like medical relief for Rwandan orphans, Creole pigs for a family in Haiti, a night's shelter for a homeless person in the United States.

Rather than giving the usual holiday presents to sisters, cousins, aunts and friends, the Knudsons are donating money to special causes in their loved ones' names.

They want to give gifts that are "more in spirit with the season," says Kathy Knudson, who works in an Army research unit. So she and her husband selected this year's presents from Alternative Gifts International, a nonprofit organization that allows people to purchase shares in programs, products and livestock that will benefit the needy in the United States and abroad.

Concerned by what they perceive as increasing materialism and commercialism during the holiday season, some gift givers, like the Knudsons, are giving to socially conscious (and tax-deductible) causes in the names of their relatives and acquaintances. From funding dental exams for Cambodian children to supplying goats to families in Mozambique, they are looking for ways to contain Christmas excess and increase the quality of life for others.

"People talk about wanting to spread peace on Earth and goodwill to men during the holiday season, but those kinds of gifts aren't found in the bottom of boxes of summer sausage and smoked cheese—that's not peace on Earth,"

says Christy Gardner, communications director for World Concern, a Seattle-based nonprofit Christian relief organization that has produced a Global Gift Guide for the past three years.

People can select presents from the World Concern catalogue—in the name of family and friends—such as prenatal checkups for women in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Myanmar (\$15), midwife kits for women in Cambodia and Uganda (\$160), bot lunches for 50 preschool children in Ethiopia (\$28.50), or two weeks of Bible camp for a Ukrainian orphan (\$70).

Family and friends—in whose name a gift has been purchased—receive a card, an ornament made in Bangladesh, a photograph and a description of the project that is being funded in their honor.

"We wanted to provide gifts that would make a difference," Gardner says. "Not gifts that would sit on a shelf and collect dust."

Obert Haavik, a Seattle resident, is already done with his Christmas shopping. Haavik, 80, bought all 25 items in the World Concern catalogue (totaling more than \$3,000).

"A good majority of people in this country have everything they need," he says. "I feel that not enough people contribute to (solving) the problems of the world-poverty, sickness." And this is his way of making a small difference, Haavik says.

Paul Schervish, a professor of sociology and director of the Social Welfare Research Institute at Boston College, recently completed a study on Christmas gift-giving habits. "The Contradictions of Christmas: Troubles and Tradition in Culture, Home and Heart," Schervish found that most people tend to feel ambivalent about gift giving: they see it as both debilitating (the crowds at the mall, the costs, the frustrating searches) and enriching (the surprise, the happiness, the appreciation).

It is impossible anymore to simply say you will not give presents during the holidays, Schervish says. So people adopt various strategies to "advance the positive" associations surrounding gift giving and "mitigate the negative," Schervish says.

And giving to socially conscious causes in lieu of traditional Christmas gift-giving may be one way people are ameliorating holiday anxieties, Schervish says.

The idea seems to be catching on. At Habitat for Humanity, for example, the number of donors to Habitat's "Extraordinary Gifts" program increased 40 percent between 1993 and 1995, says Betty Sue Taylor, director of donor services. The program, which allows individuals to contribute to the construction of homes for low-income individuals in honor of a loved one, generated 9,084 gift requests totaling more than \$652,000 last year, Taylor says.

Keeping it simple but elegant at Christmas Season The German Fashion House in Amman

KAREMAN BOUTIQUES are located in the Jaber Shopping Center. It could not be in a better position to maximize their cooperation with German Fashion Houses.

Mrs Kareman Sadeddin is a young ambitious woman who has persuaded prominent Fashion Houses in Germany such as JOSEPH JANARD, BERND BERGER, VIVENTY, COLLECTON M, WILLE AND PPEP to be their sole representative in Jordan.

The range is from classic wear to sport and casual wear plus a wide range of body wear and leggings. The famous specialized German company, WILLE and PPEP, in producing casual and classic ladies wear for medium and big sizes makes the range of the Kareman Boutiques complete.

Mrs Kareman said it was not easy to gain the confidence of these German companies, especially those of the very high standard, but I have since they know my husband Dr Fawzi who had been a banker for a long time in Germany. My husband has arranged the first step and I continued with hard work and energy. I work very hard but I enjoy my work. It is really a hobby.

Knowing the Jordanian market is essential for this kind of business. We follow up and visit exhibitions and fashion shows and compare designs, finishing quality and prices worldwide and try to have the best for the benefits of our customers and friends in Jordan. Our German partners appreciate our position and cooperate with us accordingly.

We choose the range of merchandise and check and control quality, also with the help of our German partners

and if everything passes, the goods are shipped.

The ability to adapt to changing markets and to understand customers needs has helped me to move away from the traditional fashion business to a niche that requires creativity, taste and feelings for quality/price relation. My customers and friends are my best advisors, some of them are so engaged that they participate in our decision-making strategy. My customers and myself have created a very special atmosphere in our shops. The German say "Arbeit soll Freude machen" w/c means "work should create pleasure," and that is really true and can be reality if you also cooperate with your customers.

Our strategy is straight forward: understand the needs of our customers through personal contact and their comments and we translate this in taking part in several top exhibitions worldwide and choosing what will meet the requirements of our friends and customers.

So, why don't you mark this Christmas with a little touch of style and elegance. Make a drop to our stores to see for you self what difference would it be for you as an eye catcher this season.



Reviving ancient crafts through Beit Al Bawadi

UNDER THE patronage of HRH Princess Basma, a special holiday exhibition of spectacular ceramics and handicrafts is being held at Beit Al Bawadi in Abdoun. "Seasons of Joy" combines the finely crafted, hand produced, oriental and contemporary ceramics characteristic of Beit Al Bawadi with a beautiful collection of rugs, cushions, and embroidered items.

The holiday spirit is in full display with a wide variety of lovely selections to suit every budget and style.

Beit Al Bawadi, a showroom, is a recent addition to Amman's selection of finely designed and produced handicrafts. Located in Abdoun, you can witness the production of the beautiful artistic ceramics and even place special orders for your decorating



HRH Princess Basma opens the "Seasons of Joy" exhibition at Beit Al Bawadi. She is being shown by the head of the center, Mrs Maha Farraj

delight.

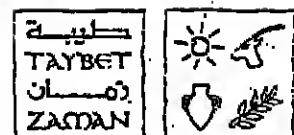
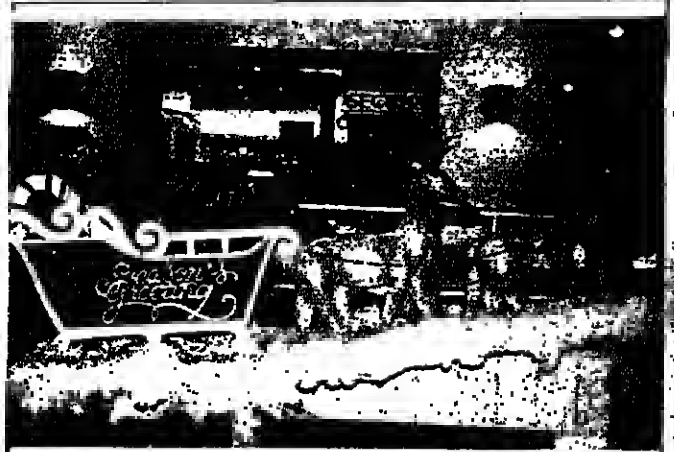
To make your holiday shopping easier, the showroom is open daily (even Fridays) from 9 am to 7 pm.

Reviving ancient crafts, while incorporating contemporary colours and patterns, is the means by which the Queen Alia Fund for Social

Development strives to help people help themselves.

All benefits go directly to improve the incomes and quality of life for thousands of Jordanians. Beit Al Bawadi, in conjunction with the development, are making a difference.

Besides owning a beautiful item, you are supporting the growth and development of Jordan.



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Experience originality at Gallery

THE GALLERY, founded in 1972, houses original art works by selected local and foreign artists living in Jordan.

It only has the very best. Works of distinction. It includes B/W sketches, oils, water colors, photographs & Lithographs.

The Gallery features a regional selection of antique prints, maps and a limited number of 17th to 19th century maps & prints of Europe, USA, Russia, Australia, South America.

The Gallery has also the usual selected works of fine craftsmanship, reprints of antique books, and pot Pourri varieties, all made with natural elements from Jordan.

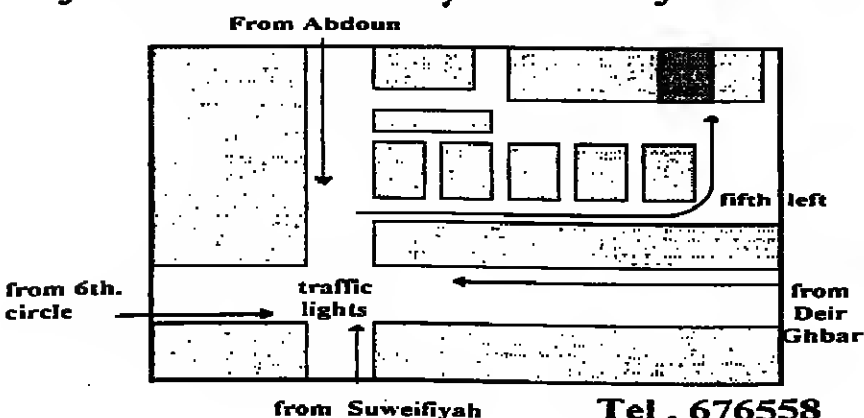
Merry Christmas &

Happy New Year ☆

The Pleasure Dome AT LAST!

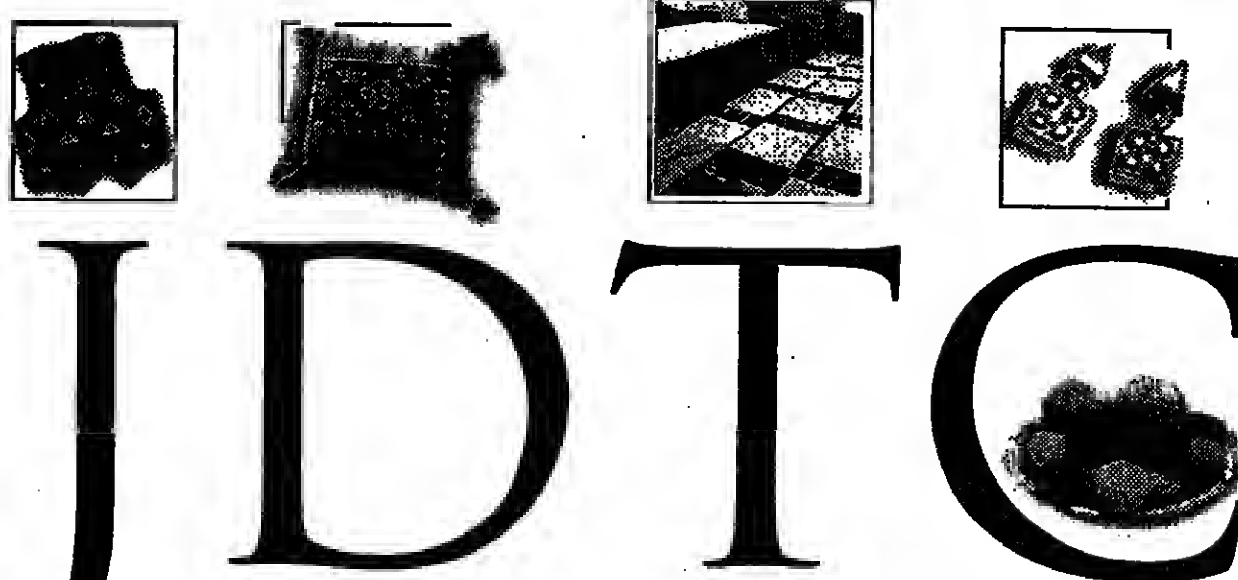
You can now enjoy watching videos the way you've always wanted...only from "The Pleasure Dome" We are the only audio & video shop that sells and rents **ONLY ORIGINAL** videos. Un-beatable picture quality with Hi-Fi stereo sound and hundreds of music CD's to choose from.

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NOOR AL HUSSEIN FOUNDATION

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Pleasure Dome Bringing the best in original videos

"WE ARE giving people what they deserve... the best," says Murad Bushmag, director of the "Pleasure Dome", which is the first, and so far, the only video outlet that rents original videos. Customers, who are increasing by the day, can choose from hundreds of original titles, and watch videos they have already watched before yet this time with a better quality.

"It is like watching the video for the first time," says Hani Al Jawhary, one of the members who rented "Braveheart" from the "Dome" having seen it before as a pirated copy.

One day soon, all shops will have to resort to the original "as Jordan moves to join the World Trade Organization, WTO, which insists that member countries must comply with a minimum standard of copyright protection. The new copyright law is on the agenda of this parliamentary session, and is expected to be enforced during 1997.

At JD 2, the rental fee is slightly more expensive but we think it is worth it; considering the picture quality and the Stereo-HiFi sound of these kinds of tapes. This is not to



Doug wants to be a good family man. He thinks he has accomplished it all until he's clond. See him in the latest film "Multiplicity"

mention the extra life of the video player, which suffers enormously from cheap pirated copies.

The shop will soon offer delivery service, and introduce some 400 new titles before the end of the year. Also an impressive CD library will be enhanced by the introduction of new titles and original cassette soon.

Once you've watched an original video, it is very difficult to go back to the pirated ones. ■



Matilda is an extraordinary girl with deeply stupid parents. The little girl stars in the hilarious comedy, "Matilda"

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Jet Set The Place for casual wear

JET SET is an exclusive elegant boutique at Ra'fat Center in Abdoon. It is introducing a new concept of "providing exclusive unisex casual wear".

Jet Set, being the authorized dealer for CK Calvin Klein, has in stock a wide selection of CK's latest winter collection for men and women.

en. They include pants, skirts, coats, jeans and sweatshirts.

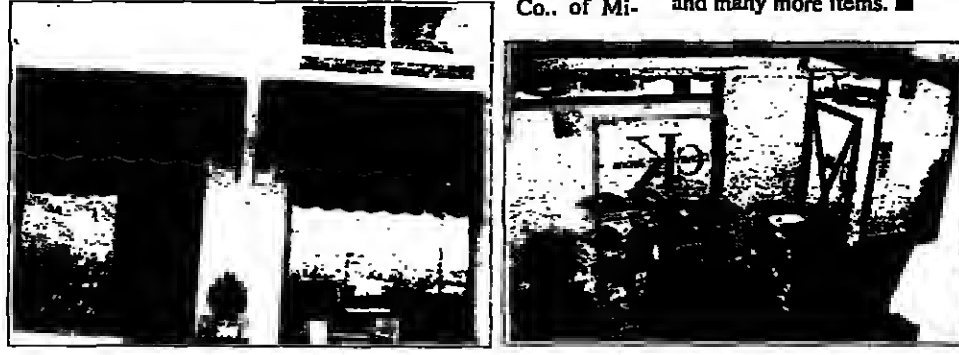
Jet Set is the official distributor for the Jones New York (JNY) products, which is well-known for its fancy casual wear for women.

Jet Set has a wide variety of assorted blazers, skirts, knits pants for women selected from the latest collections of Walker & Co., of Milano, Italy.

lazio, Italy.

Jet Set has a wide variety of jeans, sweaters, pants, long sleeve T-Shirts from well known American brands such as Levi's, Ralph Lauren, Guess, Structure.

For the Christmas Season, Jet Set can provide you with many items suitable for gifts including belts, Boxer Shorts, and many more items. ■



JDTC holds on to promoting traditional handicrafts

JORDAN DESIGN & Trade Center (JDTC) is the handicraft project of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF). Our main objective is to revive Jordan's heritage promote handicrafts locally as well as internationally.

JDTC supports designers and artists to express their artistic abilities and creativity. It carries out the designers' ideas at its project centers located throughout the Kingdom. In return, the women working at these centers who originally receive low incomes, earn some money that help them improve their living standards. The buyer

will eventually get a unique craft.

JDTC has several projects of weaving, basketry, embroidery and silver jewelry.

JDTC is celebrating this year's festive season with an exhibition titled "Simplicity". The exhibition will provide colorful gifts & crafts by Andrea Attalla as well as beautifully decorated Christmas items by Lina Muesher. The exhibition runs until 10 January 1997.

JDTC will be exhibiting its products at the Movenpick



Hotel to Petra from the 21 December 1996 until 10 January 1997. ■

Colorful canopies for christmas season

SHADOWS TRADING Center is making a special offer this season for all hotels, tourist rest houses, grand stores and villa owners in real special prices and colorful designs that would ultimately suit all tastes and needs to protect your surroundings from rain and snow droplets in this season and to insure the utmost comfort and satisfaction for all occasions whenever it is needed. For more information call tel: 732295, 079 - 39172. ■



Queider Trading Establishment promotes international trademarks

NOW FIVE years have passed since Queider establishment for perfumes and accessories has been introduced to the Jordanian market. Since 1991, Queider establishment entered Jordanian market to promote more than 15 international trademarks for perfumes, accessories and cosmetics.

The establishment proves to represent 55 well-known foreign companies in Europe and US.

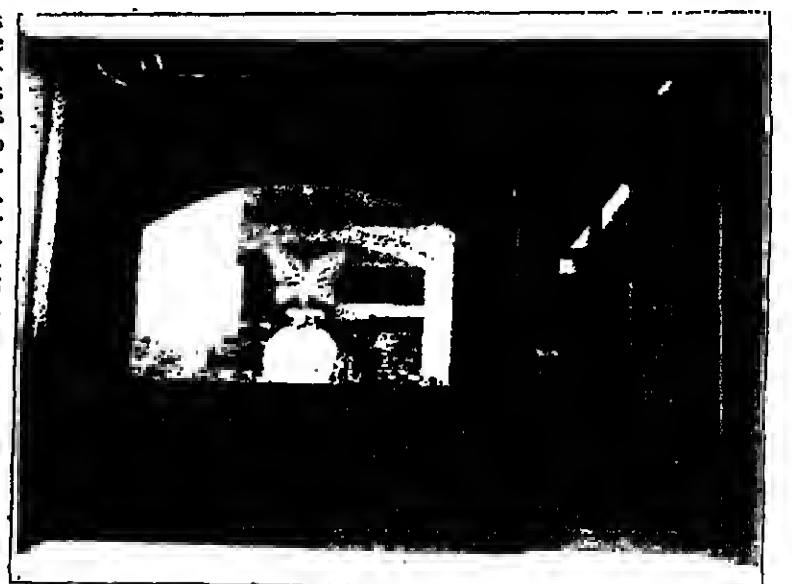
Queider establishment recorded remarkable progress in promoting genuine products like cosmetics and perfumes.

In 1993, Queider establishment has opened Orlane Center for skin care. It is the third of its kind in the world after France and US.

Among the services provided are skin treatment, make up, hair fall problems, hair dyes

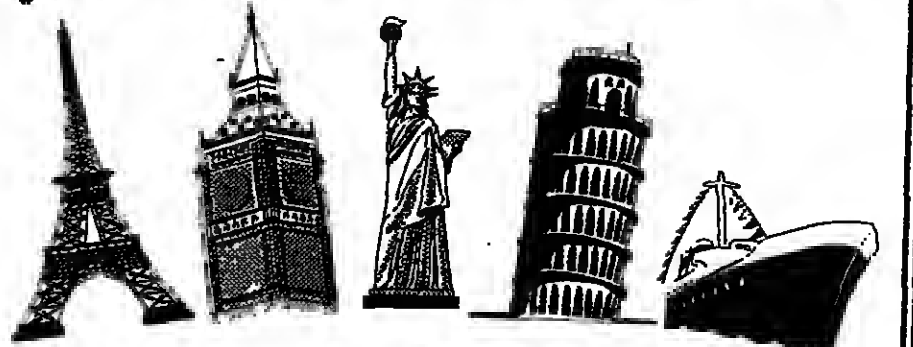
and other medical creams authorized by the Jordanian Ministry of Health and International medical agencies.

The center organizes training courses for ladies on the right methods of using the make up. These lessons are given by highly qualified experts who are trained in France. ■



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AROUND TOWN

Queen, honorary president of Birdlife International

Her Majesty Queen Noor has recently become the honorary president of the Birdlife International. The organization's main aim is to preserve birds under the threat of extinction all over the world.

The Queen's appointment is in appreciation of her noticeable efforts towards achieving sustainable development.



Clara Amado

Aesthetics of the detail in hymns to nature

By Anca De Maio
Special to The Star

Clara Amado's fifth solo exhibition in Amman, on display at the Cervantes Institute, is the result of one year's fertile work. It is inspired by the stupendous landscapes of Wadi Rum and Petra. "I've been living in Jordan for 12 years and much of the beauty and spirit of the region has filtered into my heart," said Amado, who is of a Spanish origin.

The exhibition brings together 40 naturally-colored paintings. It is an original interpretation of the relation between nature and artistic beauty. The process of artistic creation starts with the pigments-extraction from Petra stones, desert sand and soil. Dissolved in water or glued with organic adhesives on recycled paper, carton and wood, the colors preserve their sandy texture.

Amado picks up the matter she needs from the vast nature and remodels it into tiny but infinite universes. What interests her is the fraction and the detail, the part that is suggestive of the whole. Life is made of small things after all, just as the desert is made of grains of sand and the sea of drops of water," she added.

For Amado the inspiration is nothing else but the miraculous coincidence of intense living *la vivencia de la vida* and work experience *la vivencia del trabajo*. "The work of nature is the most impressive masterpiece ever done: time, rain and wind created marvels only God could have imagined," she said. "As for me I just 'steal' the beauty of nature and put it in my pictures." Amado's act of valorizing ignored or overshadowed fragments of nature is associated with the key concept of her window, *la ventana*.

Two paintings of bigger size and more dra-

matic movement are entitled *The Windows*. They express "the aesthetic frame through which I saw all my landscapes." They marked the beginning of her dealing with small surfaces. In contrast with her previous specialization in mural technique and graffiti drawing, her present collection focuses on the detail as "a new world, vague universe and precise microcosm" (in Cesar Pomar's words), self-sufficient and balanced space, "with its own contrasts, tensions and whims."

Another key term in Amado's painting is "contemplation." The window she opens is an irresistible invitation to an initiative journey back to the blissful moments following the Creation, when things revealed for the first time their amazingly fresh splendour. "God created the world for the human being to see its beauty," she said. "Man was conceived as the center of the universe and the rest was just set around him so as to be contemplated," she added.

Having got used to it ever since, the human eye is no longer sensitive to every small piece of the whole. Amado reshuffles the part-whole relation and restores the initial mystery of the world. "Its beauty has not altered, it is us that must have a better look at it," she said.

The daring presence of unexpected color stains such as flaming "cochinilla" red (an organic pigment produced in the Canary Islands) or burning Petra yellow, dramatize the composition, while the tactile invitation of the paintings on wood is difficult to resist.

Amado's universe is "one-dimensional" in the sense that it is structured on a depth-exploring vector that pierces the volumes and fissures the reliefs. The matter unveils the disordered structure of its particles under the artists' enlarging lens. The painting she secretly calls *The Grain of Sand* is an artistic reiteration of the cosmogony.



From (L-R): Princess Wijdan Ali, Amado and Juan Manuel Cabrera, Spanish Ambassador in Amman

The Milky Way illustrates her belief that the microcosm essentially equals the macrocosm in profundity and mystery. Accidentally the non-organic turns into organic state and the non-figurative into involuntary figurative representation, *Face in the Cave*.

"Inspired and communicative," Amado opens

the window of her spirit and launches a tempting invitation to an exhaustive and emotional contemplation of the enigmatic beauty of the world. Excelling in vision unity, technical mastery and creative sincerity, Amado's exhibition reverberates its original echo on the art stage of Amman.

Neil Armstrong

Highlighting the space experience

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

THAT IS one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." Before such words were uttered by Neil Armstrong back in July 1969, the inhabitants of the world would have thought that surfing space was impossible. He said these words as he first stepped on the surface of the moon.

Last week, the former American astronaut was invited to Amman to participate in the symposium on peace held by the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco in cooperation with the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research.

During his visit, Armstrong was invited to the Jubilee School of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation to participate in the Pioneering Education Program. He was accompanied by Senator Jawad Al Anani. Welcomed by the director of the school, Dr Fathi Jarwan, Armstrong gave a lecture on his past experience. He talked about issues like the differences between the surface of the moon and that of the earth, in terms of temperature, pressure, gravity and shape.

Armstrong highlighted the different conditions that accompany the process of landing on the surface of the moon. He also pointed to the physiological and psychological impacts of space on the astronaut and the rehabilitation programs he undergoes after coming down back to earth.

Answering a question on whether the large amount of money that is spent on research dealing with space could be used for humanitarian aspects, he said that such



Armstrong addressing a group of pupils from the Jubilee School

research is conducted to find alternative resources for the welfare of humanity.

Al Anani, a former government minister, said the visit was a great opportunity for a group of well-selected talented students to be acquainted with an achiever's experience. He added that the type of questions asked revealed a sense of awareness on the part of the pupils.

It has been rumored long ago that Armstrong converted to Islam after he identified the sound of a prayer call he listened

to in Egypt with the one he listened to on the moon. He maintained that this is untrue saying that he has never been to Egypt before. "The story probably originated from Malaysia," he added.

However, no interviews were published about the man in the local newspapers in Amman as he shies away from the media.

In honor of the distinguished guest, Dr Jarwan presented Armstrong with the school's shield.

Horizon Advertising sets higher training standards



HORIZON ADVERTISING and Communication Network has recently conducted an exclusive training seminar for its executives on "The Way to Great Advertising". Senior executives from Horizon Network offices, clients and media reporters attended the three-day seminar in the famous Greek Resort of Astir Palace in Athens, Greece.

"People are our asset," said Rafic-Saadeh, chairman of the Horizon Network, "and the key to their success is their desire to learn and progress. This major seminar like many others to follow is part of a progressive training program that provides higher skills in creative client servicing, marketing and media planning which has given us the edge in servicing our clients."

The training seminar also involved executives from the clients side. These were from Colgate Palmolive, Mercedes Benz and British Airways and from the media industry. "The outcome of the meeting was terrific," said Caesar Matar, managing director of Horizon Beirut, who headed this meeting. "It gave both our clients and our people the opportunity to get exposed to proven methods in producing effective advertising and to share a valued experience in reviewing and evaluating inspiring advertising works and this was certainly highly motivating and beneficial."

US Expo '97

Cross cultural contact

By Manal Omar
Special to The Star

THE US Expo '97 is making a grand entrance in Amman. As the new year comes around the corner, the organizers of what is promising to be the largest exhibition in Amman have already begun to establish their ground. The aim is to establish not only a business link with the Jordanian community, but also an American cultural experience.

US Expo '97 has been developed through research by the American company, Factory Direct Sales Association (FDSA). This is a domestic and international wholesaler located in Redondo Beach, California. Recently, the FDSA embarked on a campaign to promote American products in the Middle East. The two primary objectives of the project are to increase exports and establish a need for the presence of American products. As a result, US Expo '97 will be hosted in Amman by FDSA in order to introduce companies from the USA to the Jordanian community. During the Expo, over 300 companies will present their products to the new markets covering many fields ranging from new technology to science to consumer goods.

US Expo '97 is scheduled to take place in Amman from 17-21 March. About 340 booths will be available for rental. Company presentations will feature consumer products

including services used in the homes, office, and retail outlets. Among the many American companies expected to participate are Singer, Conex, Ronco, Pillsbury, Proctor-Silix, and American Harvest. In addition, FDSA has received full support from the Ministry of Trade in Jordan and the Jordanian Embassy in Washington DC. At the



same time, the United States Department of Commerce's Commercial Section has yielded complete support to FDSA and participated in the effort to recruit exhibitors.

FDSA hopes to use US Expo '97 as the grand entrance in the effort to introduce American products to the Middle East. Therefore, the Expo is organized to be an unprecedented exhibition which will redefine the role of exhibitions in the Jordanian community. The final result will prove to be a cultural event in addition to a business adventure. The event will include special

effects such as fireworks display each night, a fashion show and appearance of American celebrities.

As part of the exhibition, a spectacular light show is planned inside and outside the exhibition hall. Outside the exhibition there will be marine boats, Harley Davidson motorcycles, jet cars, and tents. Each day there will be a number of gifts and prizes granted on a lottery system. The main attraction of the exhibition will be the displays of the latest technology from a wide variety of all sectors.

Currently, the management of US Expo '97 in Jordan is under Waddah Al Kalani, the executive director international of FDSA. "Our management team is a well selected cadre of graduates from American institutions and universities. This staff will carry out our main objective: to make this exhibition the precedent for all exhibitions to come."

The exhibition not only provides an opportunity for American companies to enter Jordan, but it also provides the perfect opportunity to promote Jordanian tourism and products. Over one thousand and two hundred Americans will be coming to Jordan, and a trip to Petra and the Dead Sea is being organized, courtesy of FDSA. US Expo '97 hopes to serve as a symbol for the strong and rich relationship shared by the Jordanian and American community.

SCRAPBOOK

By Manal Omar

Learn about Jordan from a taxi driver

AFTER A month in Amman, it slowly became a ritual that each time I bled my hand out for a taxi, I would murmur a silent prayer. I had become convinced that all of the taxi drivers in Amman had entered some grand bet of who would make my ride the worst. Each time I was ready to award the trophy to the clear champion, the next day a challenger would appear. Of course there were those who decided to stay neutral, and sometimes I was very thankful for them. Nonetheless, the one thing that all the taxi drivers shared in common were the constant glances into the rearview mirror, their eyes betraying their thought: this thick accent and weak Arabic did not coincide with the obvious Arab appearance.

For many, the thought drifted through their mind as they drove to my destination. But for others, it was apparent that the question trapped in their brains tormented them. The expression on their face reflected a torturing debate—to ask or not to ask—culminating into the same abrupt question: where are you from?

To which I would answer honestly, "I'm originally Palestinian but I have lived in America all my life." Occasionally there were nods—the taxi driver had suspected as much. Yet once the first question was asked what inevitably followed was a string of questions or the transformation of the driver into an enthusiastic lecturer.

It did not take long to realize the wealth of information that each driver had to offer. No, they did not update me on the stock exchange nor did they solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Instead, they painted the most accurate and beautiful picture of what life in Jordan was. Nothing of which the magnificent walls of Petra or the magic of Amman could portray. The frustration of life and the struggle to survive can never be accurately depicted as some of the stories that filled the taxis. No amount of words could express the obvious pride for culture and heritage as the eloquent speakers from the drivers had done—which would have done even Nasser proud.

Each time I enter a taxi, I murmur a silent prayer, hoping that the frustration of this taxi driver would not lead to anger. Silently praying that the hopes and dreams of this man were not a dim light enveloped in complete darkness. The taxi drivers were able to show me a part of Jordan that can go easily unseen: the average man. This average man portrays the fresh reality of Jordan—the richness in history, the kindness of the people, and the difficulty of life. There is so much to learn from the average man, if only we would stop and listen.

THE FAR SIDE

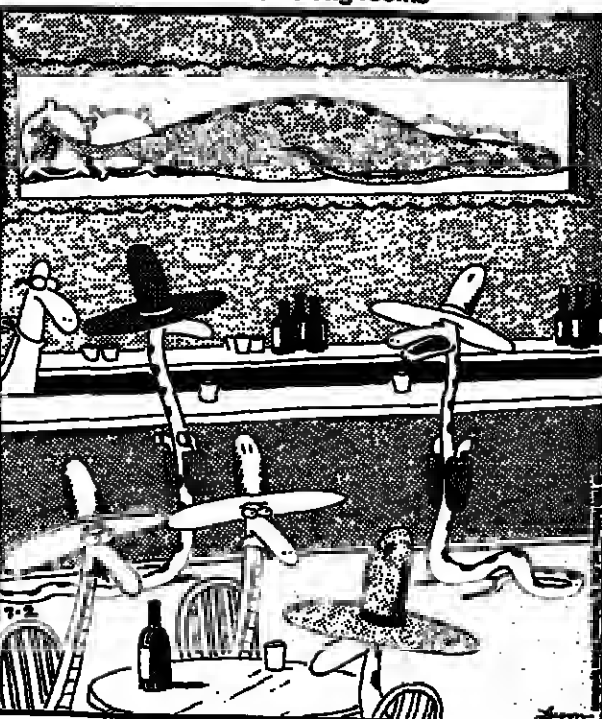
By GARY LARSON



"Sorry, son, but for you to understand what happened, you have to first understand that back in the '60s we were all taking a lot of drugs."



Primitive waiting rooms



"Who are we kidding, Luke? We know this is going to be just another standoff."

AGENDA

- Exhibitions**
- Mini Christmas Bazaar at Um El Kundum. Lithographs, old postcards and photographs on Jerusalem, Chinese paintings, arts and crafts, fresh farm produce, off the Airport highway on the way to the Arabian Horse Club, first left at the top of the hill, Friday 20th December from 11 am till 5 pm. Tel: 664805.
 - Works by Marwan Kasab-Bachi at the Darat Al Funun, continues till 9 January.
 - Graphics by Computer by Ismail Shammout at Muntada Sboman, continues till 24 December.
 - Works by Rula Shukairi at the Darat Al Funun, continues till 4 January.
 - Works by Clara Amado at the Spanish Cultural Center.
 - From Script to Abstraction at the The Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, continues till 12 January.
- Films**
- Asterix chez le Bretons at the French Cultural Center, today at 4:00 pm.
 - L'Esprit at the French Cultural Center, 20 December at 8:30 pm.
 - Degaulle Malraux: Portraits Croises at the French Cultural Center, 23 December at 8:30 pm.
 - Raphael: Legend and legacy part 2, at the Darat Al Funun, today at 5:00.
 - Como agua Para el Chocolate, at the Cervantes Institute, today at 5:00.

Orbit interviews Libya's Colonel Al-Qadhafi

THE ORBIT Satellite Television & Radio Network made an unprecedented interview with Libya's renowned leader, Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhafi. The interview was aired last Sunday at 6:30 pm GMT at Al Thania, the network's premium Arabic language channel. This was a very special edition of *Ala Al Hawa*, live from Tripoli.

Since its launch, the nightly talk show, hosted by Imam Al Deen Adeeb, has generated widespread

response throughout the Arab World, making history and headlines with the appearance of prominent Arab personalities. CNN International has dubbed the show "the pulse of the Arab World," while the *Kolera* Magazine Annual Readers' Television Awards judged the programme Best Talk Show.

Viewers were given the chance to telephone or fax in with questions for al Qadhafi. This was an opportunity for the Arab World to have their queries answered live.

While in Libya, Mr Adeeb was supposed to tape episodes for *Mouqabala Shakh-siya*, the channel's exclusive in-depth interview series which brings viewers an up close and personal look at the life, career and influence of a particular individual.

The Libyan leader will be meeting with Mr Adeeb over several days. He is expected to provide an insight into his background, experiences and views on the events which have shaped the history of the Arab World.

Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 634149): *Primal Fear*
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 634149): *Virtuosity*
- Plaza (Tel: 699238): *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*
- Concord I (Tel: 677420): *Diabolique*
- Concord II (Tel: 677420): *Independence Day*

Latest Movie

● A scene from *Last Supper*: A group of intellectual graduate students accustomed to living comfortably and safely in a small mid-western town are awakened by a single event of murderous magnitude which sends them spinning into a vortex of comedy and horror. Driven by their warped sense of moral obligation, these liberal students begin knocking off members of the political right. The effects on each of the anti-heroes is not only darkly comic but frighteningly real.

The *Last Supper*, a scandalous black comedy from Sony pictures releasing, uses this idea as its centerpiece: the dangers of saving the world today from the hypothetical horrors of tomorrow.

Courtesy: "The Pleasure Dome"



The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 14-20 December

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Adventures of Mickey and Donald
2:30—Circus & Safety at Work
3:00—French Programs
4:00—Gillette (sports)
4:30—Chris Cross
5:00—News Flash
5:02—Futures (Educational)
5:15—The Blue Heelers
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Something Wilder
8:00—Superstars of Action
8:30—Prism
9:10—Superman-Loss and Clark
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Devices and Desires (Mini Series)
11:15—Feature Film: *Hot Shots*, starring Rod Taylor & Brit Eklund

SUNDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Joany Quest (Cartoon)
2:30—You Bet Your Life
3:00—French Programs
4:00—World Echo (Doc)
4:30—The Famous Five
5:00—News Flash
5:02—Our World, Their World (Doc)
5:15—All the Children (Doc)
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines

MONDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—The Muppet Show
2:30—Dad's Army
3:00—French Programs
4:00—Nature's Inventions (Doc)
4:30—Hey Dad
5:00—News Flash
5:02—Wild Flower (Doc)
5:15—Destiny Ridge
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Rosanne
8:00—Disaster Chronicles (Doc)
8:30—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
9:10—The Lazarus Man
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Devices and Desires
11:15—The Knock (Police Drama)

TUESDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Budge (Cartoon)
2:30—Captain Planet
3:00—I Love Lucy
3:30—French Programs
4:00—At The Zoo
4:30—Documentary

WEDNESDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Snowwhite (Cartoon)
2:30—The 12 days of Xmas
3:00—Christmas Ceremonies
3:30—Earth Revealed (Doc)
4:30—Bilzard Island
5:00—News Flash
5:02—Kelly & Challenge (Doc)
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
8:00—Challenges
9:10—NBA
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Cobra (New Series)
12:00—Hart to Hart
12:45—Who's the Boss

THURSDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Iris & Ovide and the Gang
2:35—Out of This World
3:00—Covington Cross
3:30—Feature Film: *They Call Me Bruce*, starring: Ralph



Tom Cruise in *Born on the Fourth of July*, Friday at 10:25 pm

Mauro and Pam Huntington
5:00—News Flash
5:02—Continuation of Film
5:30—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Pacific Station
8:00—The American Chart Show
8:30—Material World
9:10—Kung Fu
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *Callie and Son*, starring Lindsay Wagner and Jameson Parker
12:00—Tarata

FRIDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—The Muppet Show & Flimstones
3:00—French Programs
4:00—The Crystal Maze
5:00—News Flash
5:02—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Down to Earth
8:00—Discover Magazine (Doc)

8:30—VR4, The Virtual Reality (Science Fiction)
9:10—Hunter
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *Born on the Fourth of July*, starring Tom Cruise
12:00—Family Matters
PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS SAMEDI

3:00—Documentaire La France aux villages
1000
3:30—Emission jeunesse
Fête des bébés
6:00—Série policière Jack
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine Ziva

DIMANCHE

3:00—Emission Jeunesse
Cajou
3:30—Diversissement
Week-ends spéciaux
6:00—Magazine
Faut pas rêver
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine Sports et musique

LUNDI

3:00—Variétés
L'intégrale
3:30—Magazine
Planète en équation
La France et la société de l'information
6:00—Documentaire
Jusqu'au bout de la route
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine Cinq sur cinq

Programs are subject to change by JTV

ORIGINAL Videos Releases

* *Sense & Sensibility*: The award winning feature of a Jane Austen novel with Emma Thompson and Hugh Grant.

* *Matilda*: A very intelligent child finds it hard to cope with her stupid parents especially her Dad (Danny De Vito).

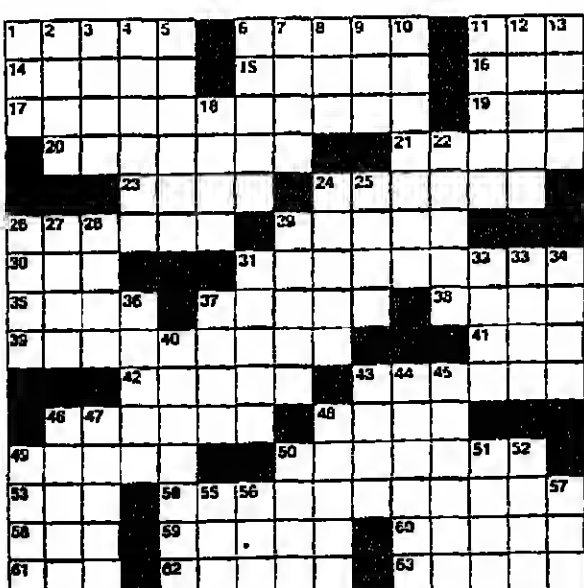
* *The Power Rangers: The Movie*: The six teenage heroes return in this bigger-than-life feature to fight and ancient evil force and save the earth. Action packed.

* *If Lucy Fell*: Probably one of the greatest movies to watch. A warm romance that shows that you only appreciate what you have if you risk losing it. Sarah-Jessica Parker superbly plays her role as the passive competitor to the gorgeous Elle Macpherson.

* *The "Star Wars" Trilogy*: Available for the last time is this amazing saga from George Lucas with young Harrison Ford comes back as a digitally re-mastered release for even more impressive sound and breath-taking picture sequences.

Courtesy: "The Pleasure Dome"
Tel: 676558 - Fax: 5338087

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Henry
2 Lodge
3 Posts
4 Worth: abbr.
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50 Most underhanded
51 Kind of lock
52 Aquarium
53 Opening
54 Actress
55 Lupino
56 Level
57 Bird sound
58 Risen variety
59 Critique
60 Badminton
61 Muslim state

-This Week's- HOROSCOPES

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: There'll be lots of changes with the moon in Pisces. Balance your budget and pay the bills.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Old business takes priority. You're full of new ideas. Don't wait a moment longer to start a project you've been thinking about.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Don't get to playing with your friends and forget something your sweetheart wants. Finish something you can't put off any longer.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Help an older person stay on track so you'll know what to do. Parties get in the way of your work. You'll make good contacts, though.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). A foreigner helps you make your dreams come true. Work hard to finish a horrible assignment. The festivities begin. Seal time for work that must get out.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Be careful or you'll spend more than you have. It'll be hard to sit still. You'll want to run and play. Be prepared for a tough assignment.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Head a shy friend's advice. You'll find the solution to a domestic problem. Pooling your resources is part of the answer. Pay bills.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your workload's erratic — be flexible. Finish up loose odds and ends so you can go shopping.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Buy your true love something special. Work to make more money to pay for it. Hassle out the details with a partner.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stay home for one who needs you. You may get a workout, but you'll have another kind of work to do soon.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll know instinctively what to do. Act quickly to avoid a mess. Watch for a lucky break or bargain.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Neither a borrower nor a lender be. You and a neighbor can come up with a brilliant idea and put it into effect.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Stand up to a silly boss and make a good impression. Keep your wits about you, especially if you're spending money.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Focus on home and family this year, and you'll gain a great treasure.

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Bridge

Oh, Those Overtricks
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ Q 8 5 2
♦ A 9 4 2
♣ 4

WEST
♠ A Q J
♥ J 10
♦ K J 5
♣ J 9 8 6 2

EAST
♠ Void
♥ Q K 9 7 6 4 3
♦ Q 10 8 6 3
♣ Q 10

SOUTH
♠ K 9 8 5 4 2
♥ A
♦ 7
♣ A K 7 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
4♠ Pass 4♠ Pass
4♠ Pass 4♠ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

At rubber bridge, this hand would present no problem. Declarer would simply go about ruffing clubs in dummy, content to let the defenders score three trump tricks and no more. But at duplicate pairs the lure of overtricks is more beguiling.

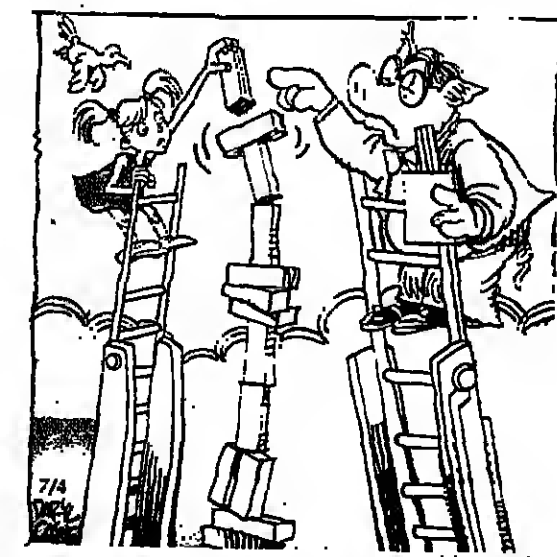
Once spades were raised, South made a natural jump in clubs in search of a slam. When North could do no more over a four-heart cue-bid than sign off with four-spades, South felt the level was high enough.

West led the jack of hearts, taken perforce with the ace. The ace of clubs was cashed, followed by a club ruff in dummy. The rubber bridge player would return to hand with a heart ruff and ruff another club, cash the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond as the entry for one more club ruff. Now a diamond ruff in the closed hand would be the entry to lead the king of clubs, and the defenders would get only three spade tricks regardless of the distribution.

But here South had visions of 12 tricks if clubs were 4-3 and East held the ace of spades, so declarer tried a trump from the table — and the roof fell in. When East showed out, declarer played low from hand. West won the jack and defended brilliantly by cashing the ace of trumps and continuing with the queen. That sacrificed a trump trick, but it came back with interest. South could no longer avoid losing two club tricks for down one!

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TRUE! By Daryl Cagle



Source: Associated Press. Courtesy of the Girl Scouts Council of the North Carolina Capital.

Girl Scouts in Washington, D.C., must sell enough boxes of cookies to make a tower more than 10 miles high, in order to cover the cost of their liability premiums.

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Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DENEY

SATHY

YOSSIF

ZEERIF

Answers: 1. DENY 2. SATYR 3. JOSSIF 4. FRIEZ



Now arrange the divided letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the

Answers: 1. DENY 2. SATYR 3. JOSSIF 4. FRIEZ

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Words of Wisdom

Every day teaches new lessons if you are open to them.

Those who persist in portraying themselves as morally superior should answer the question, "Why? Was it ever in doubt?"

Pride leads to the worst actions because it tricks people into thinking they have a noble reason for doing something bad.

To be suspicious of another is to understand what we are capable of doing.

Ingratitude is a slow poison to relationships, but it kills just as surely as out-and-out treachery.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Le pétrole irakien à nouveau exporté

● L'Irak a repris cette semaine ses exportations de brut par le terminal de Mina al-Bakr sur le Golfe, après avoir remis en service l'oléoduc reliant ses champs pétroliers de Kirkouk (nord) à la Turquie, pour la première fois depuis six ans. Selon le ministre irakien du pétrole Mohammad Amer Rachid, un premier lot de 500.000 barils de brut irakien ont été chargés dimanche à bord d'un pétrolier. La reprise des exportations pétrolières irakiennes, limitées à une valeur de deux milliards de dollars par semestre, a été autorisée en vertu de l'accord «pétrole contre nourriture», conclu entre l'Irak et l'Onu, qui constitue la première dérogation à l'embargo international imposé à l'Irak en août 1990 à la suite de l'invasion du Koweït décidée par le président irakien Saddam Hussein (notre photo). Une série de contrats a déjà été signée avec des entreprises américaines, russes et françaises pour l'achat de pétrole irakien.



SELON MOI

La réunion de

soixante partis politiques arabes cette semaine en Jordanie tenait vraiment du miracle. Pour la première fois, les régimes arabes ont confirmé avec cette réunion la légitimité de l'existence de nombreux partis politiques.

De même, ils acceptent la participation de ces partis dans le jeu démocratique en envisageant les moyens permettant de promouvoir le pluralisme, et les libertés démocratiques dans le monde arabe.

Les déclarations et communiqués qui ont émané de cette réunion sont des signes positifs qui témoignent de la volonté des pays arabes d'atteindre une certaine unité politique. Une volonté aussi présente dans le domaine culturel avec la récente manifestation organisée dans les Emirats arabes unis qui rassemblait des chanteurs de tous les pays arabes.

Savoir si les objectifs annoncés à l'issue de la réunion d'Amman seront tous réalisés n'est pas le plus important.

Ce qui est essentiel, c'est de constater que ce type de réunion s'est déroulée dans un pays arabe.

En interdisant récemment l'entrée sur le territoire jordanien à un journaliste libanais, la Jordanie avait commis une erreur historique. Quelles que soient les raisons qui motivaient cette décision, la Jordanie avait alors commis une grave faute par rapport aux efforts qu'elle déploie pour faire de ce pays un modèle de démocratie dans la région. L'esprit de tolérance qui caractérise le régime jordanien doit permettre à tous les opposants politiques de s'exprimer.

La réunion des partis arabes répond elle aux aspirations d'une Jordanie démocratique et libre. Une Jordanie qui deviendrait un lieu d'expression pour tous les intellectuels arabes résidant à l'étranger et souhaitant exprimer leurs idées. Une Jordanie moderne ouverte à toutes les critiques et les opinions, pilier de la presse arabe et de la liberté d'expression.

Dans le futur, les peuples arabes auront besoin d'un tel lieu d'expression. Pourquoi la Jordanie ne jouerait-elle pas ce rôle? Il ne tient qu'à elle d'affirmer cette volonté en multipliant les initiatives de ce type.

Les espérances placées autrefois dans les grands partis nationaux ne semblent plus exister aujourd'hui, et les dangers d'interférence entre politique intérieure et intervention chez les pays voisins sont beaucoup moins grands.

La Jordanie se doit donc de rester politiquement à l'avant-garde en protégeant à tous, et surtout à ses détracteurs, qu'il est possible de rassembler toutes les tendances et partis politiques existant dans les pays arabes.

Sa'eda Kilani

Le Jourdain, on y revient.
Tous les jeudis dans le Star
645380

Société

Les étrangers priés d'aller travailler ailleurs

Pour lutter contre le chômage dans le royaume hachémite, le gouvernement jordanien demande aux travailleurs étrangers de certains secteurs d'emploi de laisser leurs places aux ressortissants jordaniens. Une décision qui provoque la grogne des patrons craignant de perdre ainsi une main d'œuvre avantageuse.

La Jordanie applique depuis plusieurs mois une politique visant à réduire la main-d'œuvre étrangère travaillant dans le royaume pour lutter contre le chômage. «En fait, cette mesure est appliquée depuis deux ans suite à une décision du Conseil des ministres», déclare Bahjat Qouteishat, chargé de l'emploi au ministère du Travail.

«Le gouvernement jordanien a donné le 25 juillet 1995 un délai de trois mois à la majorité des travailleurs étrangers du pays pour régulariser leur situation ou partir. Puis il a de-

mandé à la police de localiser les travailleurs illégaux. Mais dans quelques rares cas, on ne trouve pas de remplaçants jordaniens, faute d'expérience ou de spécialisations adéquates. Le ministère du Travail est alors habilité à délivrer des permis de travail à des étrangers. Celui-ci ne pourra travailler qu'après accord du ministre responsable du secteur en question. Par exemple, si le ministère du Travail accorde un permis de travail à un professeur étranger, celui-ci ne pourra travailler qu'après avoir obtenu l'accord du ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur» ex-

plique Bahjat Qouteishat. Les professions qui doivent être réservées à la main-d'œuvre nationale sont les suivantes: médecine, ingénierie, comptable, fonctionnaire, dactylographe, secrétaire, standardiste, magasinier, vendeur, coiffeurs pour dames, décorateur, éducateur, électricien, pompiste, transporteur, mécanicien et garde de sécurité.

«A partir du 1er janvier 1997, le ministère du Travail va également ajouter à cette liste le métier de coiffeur pour hommes», précise Bahjat Qouteishat. Une mesure qui s'appliquera aussi à partir du milieu de l'année

prochaine aux métiers de la restauration et de l'hôtellerie. Le gouvernement a pris cette décision en fonction du marché de l'emploi, des demandes et des diplômes jordaniens. «Il y a certaines catégories d'emplois que les Jordaniens n'occupent pas d'occupation parce que le salaire est trop bas ou pour des raisons de couverture sociale», reconnaît Bahjat Qouteishat. «C'est la faute des employeurs, notamment dans le secteur privé. Ils doivent résoudre ces problèmes en indexant le salaire minimum sur le coût de la vie. Les travailleurs jor-

niens sont prêts à faire n'importe quel travail si on leur donne un bon salaire et des assurances sociales». Pour lui, le meilleur exemple est celui de la municipalité d'Amman. «Quand le ministre du Travail et le maire d'Amman ont décidé d'augmenter le salaire mensuel des employés du service de nettoyage de 70 à 130 JD, plus de 200 Jordaniens ont immédiatement rejoint les rangs de ce service. Cela montre que le salaire et les assurances sociales sont plus importants aux yeux des Jordaniens que le statut offert par certaines professions.»

La réticence du secteur privé

Le gouvernement se heurte à la résistance d'un secteur privé favorable à l'emploi d'une main-d'œuvre étrangère moins coûteuse. «Je préfère embaucher des travailleurs étrangers parce qu'ils acceptent des salaires moins élevés et des horaires plus chargés que les Jordaniens», explique le gérant d'une station-service de Schmeisani. De plus, les travailleurs étrangers sont considérés par les patrons comme étant plus «obéissants et plus corvéables».

«Ce n'est pas un problème de salaire», explique Simon Matar, patron de l'entreprise de décoration CDC. «Je donne le même salaire aux Jordaniens et aux étrangers. Le problème tient plus au comportement des Jordaniens. Ceux que j'ai employés dans le passé ne voulaient pas accomplir certaines

tâches, telles que faire le café, ou refusaient de rester une demi-heure de plus quand cela était nécessaire. Aujourd'hui, on est contraint d'embaucher des Jordaniens mais je ne le ferai pas. Tout d'abord parce qu'il est difficile d'en trouver, et ensuite parce que renouveler l'expérience ne me tente pas.»

Pour Bahjat Qouteishat, il est normal qu'une telle décision suscite une polémique. «Nous ne pouvons pas obliger les patrons à améliorer les conditions de travail. Par contre, ils sont indirectement obligés de le faire en appliquant cette décision.»

Dans le même temps, le gouvernement a créé un observatoire destiné à surveiller les travailleurs étrangers illégaux. Les employeurs qui enfreignent la décision gouvernementale sont menacés de poursuites d'un montant minimum de 52 JD et risquent une condamnation pénale immédiate. Cependant, ces sanctions ne semblent pas dissuader tous les patrons, certains étant prêts à courir le risque d'une amende en n'hésitant pas à utiliser un prétexte jordanien pour cacher la nationalité de leurs employés.

«Il ne fait aucun doute que l'économie jordanienne a besoin d'une main-d'œuvre étrangère, et essentiellement de



Pour le gouvernement jordanien, le calcul est simple. En interdisant l'emploi des étrangers dans certains domaines, le taux de chômage de la population active jordanienne devrait diminuer.

travailleurs égyptiens. Deux secteurs ont particulièrement besoin: la construction et l'agriculture. Mais le volume de cette main-d'œuvre étrangère a largement dépassé les besoins de la Jordanie», explique Bahjat Qouteishat. D'après lui, le nombre de travailleurs étrangers en trop en Jordanie est de 250.000. La Jordanie comptant actuellement 350 000 travailleurs étrangers alors que 100.000 seraient suffisants. 7% de cette communauté étrangère seraient au chômage.

«Notre problème», ajoute Bahjat Qouteishat, «est celui du grand nombre d'universités privées. Elles accordent à de nombreux étudiants des

diplômes de docteur, d'avocat... Il faut étudier le marché de l'emploi jordanien avant de créer de telles filières. Nous appelons les jeunes Jordaniens à s'orienter vers d'autres professions.»

La nouvelle loi du Travail jordanienne qui prévoyait déjà l'octroi prioritaire d'emplois aux Jordaniens, puis aux Arabes et enfin aux autres communautés étrangères, devrait donc entraîner de nombreux changements dans le monde du travail. A condition bien sûr qu'aucun «piston» ne vienne déjouer ces nouveaux règlements.

Mona Qaddoumi



Le secteur de la construction reste l'un des seuls à ne pas être touché par la nouvelle législation.

Découverte

Une galerie d'art avec une certaine philosophie

Grande passionnée d'art, Nelly Lama vient d'ouvrir dans le centre d'Abdoun à Amman une galerie conçue pour offrir du bon goût pour tous les goûts, s'adressant tant au public amateur d'art qu'aux collectionneurs. Une galerie qui veut aussi avoir une fonction éducative.

Quand Nelly Lama parle de Brancusi et de son *Boisier*, elle a des larmes dans la voix. Lorsqu'elle décrit les pièces uniques de sa collection, qu'il s'agisse d'une miniature indienne ou d'une gravure en noir et blanc, son visage s'illumine. En racontant la vie de Van Gogh, elle revit l'histoire et s'empare comme une mère parlant de son enfant.

Pour Nelly Lama, les artistes de la Renaissance et du Classicisme sont des proches qu'elle aime sincèrement. Et quant à l'art de la préhistoire ou l'art religieux, elle y voit des émotions primaires exprimées avec une spontanéité qui fait vibrer le cœur des «puristes».

«Puriste» elle-même, Nelly Lama vit pleinement la passion qu'elle a depuis toujours pour l'art. Comme dans le triangle des valeurs absolues du classicisme qui réunit le beau, le bien et la vérité dans une équivalence fondamentale, Nelly Lama conjugue l'esthétique en terme éthique, trouvant ainsi la certitude de sa vocation.

Historienne de l'Art, diplômée de l'Université libano-américaine de Beyrouth, Nelly Lama se consacre corps et âme à la promotion et à la diffusion de l'art de véritable valeur ainsi qu'à l'éducation et à l'affinement du goût artistique au sein des sociétés arabes.

Durant un séjour de treize ans dans les pays du Golfe, elle a enseigné l'Histoire de l'art, ainsi que le dessin et la peinture. De retour en Jordanie, elle est devenue critique d'art officielle au *Jordan Times*, travaillant de très près avec les artistes et collectionneurs jordaniens.

Elle développe à Amman de nombreuses activités liées à l'art. Ainsi, elle travaille en collaboration avec l'association jordanienne *Les amis de l'archéologie* sur un programme d'enseignement de l'archéologie dans les écoles. Parallèlement, elle continue à régulièrement donner des conférences sur des artistes ou des mouvements artistiques dans des centres culturels ou bien des associations de bienfaisance en Jordanie et à l'étranger. Elle donne aussi des cours privés d'Histoire de l'art à des dames de la société jordanienne, sous l'angle de la philosophie et des mœurs sociales à certains moments bien précis de l'histoire.

«Je crois très profondément au caractère international de l'art et de la culture», affirme Nelly Lama.

«Surtout maintenant, en cette fin de 20ème siècle, une culture nationale qui se replie sur elle-même se fragilise. En monologuant, elle devient rigide et stérile. Au lieu d'évoluer, elle dégénère». De son point de vue, la vie artistique et culturelle de la Jordanie doit s'enrichir en se rattachant de manière plus déterminée à la culture mondiale.

«Je suis en faveur de la décentralisation et de la démocratisation de l'art», déclare Nelly Lama. De la vulgarisation des classiques de l'art uni-

versel et de la contemplation directe des œuvres d'art d'une valeur certaine dépend le raffinement du goût artistique.

Grande collectionneuse, Nelly Lama consacre beaucoup de temps à la quête d'œuvres d'art. Chaque fois qu'elle est en Europe c'est une occasion pour de nouvelles fouilles chez les antiquaires de Paris, Vienne, Londres ou Budapest.

Elle passe des heures à étudier des centaines de pièces pour finalement n'en choisir qu'une dizaine. «Il y a un niveau de valeur à respecter, indépendamment des goûts et des sensibilités personnelles», précise-t-elle. «Pour éviter le kitsch, tellement présent sur le marché jordanien, la qualité doit l'emporter sur la quantité.»

Nelly Lama est prête à n'importe quel effort de découverte, transport, encadrement afin de pouvoir partager «la beauté de l'art» avec le public jordanien. «Hormis quelques exceptions, il faut reconnaître que même dans les grandes villes d'Amman, il y a un manque d'œuvres authentiques.»

Pour elle, «le bon goût» s'acquiert lorsque l'on apprend à contempler un tableau. Dans sa galerie, elle a mis à la disposition du public des livres et des revues sur les artistes présentés

afin de permettre une meilleure compréhension. Elle est toujours disponible pour commenter personnellement les œuvres qui y sont exposées.

Des pièces très rares comme une lithographie de Miro, deux gravures de Giacometti, des reproductions de gravures du 17ème siècle d'Angelica Kauffman partagent l'espace intime de la galerie avec des tableaux signés par Menendez (peintre argentin figuratif), (gravures modernes), Guirry, Würz, Carmelo de la Pina ou Washburn. On trouve en plus de ces toiles une copie d'enluminure gothique, des copies de pastels gigantesques de l'artiste polonaise Tamara de Lempicka et des gravures du 19ème siècle.

De belles horloges datant du tournant du siècle complètent la décoration de cette pièce. Des horloges qui semblent s'être arrêtées eo entrant dans cet espace hors du temps.

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Tamara de Lempicka

De belles horloges datant du tournant du siècle complètent la décoration de cette pièce. Des horloges qui semblent s'être arrêtées eo entrant dans cet espace hors du temps.

«Le Gallery Nimri Center/Abdoun circle tel: 079 20736

«L'Esprit est dans notre cinéma, une météorite chute d'une autre planète, film unique, dans tous les sens du terme, égaré par le génie d'un homme et le chaos de l'Histoire, mutilé, inachevé, inabouti au regard son ouvrier même et qui scintille pourtant de son éclat de diamant. Espoir est d'avantage qu'une œuvre: un épisode dans la trajectoire d'un aventurier.» Cette définition du critique de cinéma Pierre Billard traduit la complexité de cette œuvre cinématographique.

Très intéressé par le cinéma, André Malraux découvre le septième art au milieu des années trente à Moscou auprès d'Eisenstein. Il travaille alors avec lui sur l'adaptation de son roman *La condition humaine*, récompensé en France par le prix Goncourt en 1933. Ce projet n'aboutira pas, mais Malraux n'abandonne pas l'idée d'adapter une de ses œuvres à l'écran.

S'engageant à partir de 1936 aux côtés des Républicains espagnols qui luttent contre Franco, Malraux tire de cette expérience un ouvrage, *L'Esprit*. Deux années après, en 1939, il a l'opportunité de réaliser dans des studios de Barcelone *Sierra*

Cinéma

Un écran d'Espoir

Le film *Esprit* réalisé par André Malraux sera projeté demain à Amman. Un film inspiré de son roman *L'Esprit* décrivant un épisode de la guerre civile espagnole.

«*Esprit* est dans notre cinéma, une météorite chute d'une autre planète, film unique, dans tous les sens du terme, égaré par le génie d'un homme et le chaos de l'Histoire, mutilé, inachevé, inabouti au regard son ouvrier même et qui scintille pourtant de son éclat de diamant. Espoir est d'avantage qu'une œuvre: un épisode dans la trajectoire d'un aventurier.» Cette définition du critique de cinéma Pierre Billard traduit la complexité de cette œuvre cinématographique.

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de Teruel, un film qui s'inspire d'un duo des chapitres de son livre. Le tournage de ce film se fait dans des conditions précaires: les moyens dont dispose Malraux sont dérisoires et la situation explosive que connaît l'Europe à l'aube de la deuxième guerre mondiale empêche le bon déroulement du tournage. L'argent et le matériel manquent. Les fréquentes pannes d'électricité ralentissent le tournage du film. De plus, la majorité de l'équipe qui entoure André Malraux découvre elle aussi le cinéma pour la première fois.

La guerre finit par rattraper ce film qui doit fuir l'Espagne. La précipitation et le démantèlement de Barcelone à Paris ont empêché Malraux et son équipe de travailler dans des conditions normales, et surtout de figurer ce film. L'absence de raccords est un des résultats de ce montage de fortune. Une méthode qui sera reprise vingt ans plus tard par les réalisateurs de La Nouvelle vague comme Truffaut ou Godard.

André Malraux ne baisse cependant pas les bras et se bat pour terminer cette œuvre. Achevé en France en 1939 mais aussitôt interdit par les autorités françaises qui jugent les relations franco-espagnoles trop tendues, *Sierra de Teruel* devra attendre la libération pour être montré au grand public.

Une fois la guerre finie, un distributeur décide de baptiser ce film *Esprit* pour rappeler le titre du livre. En étant l'article indéfini. A cette époque, Malraux est lui-même en train de se battre avec la brigade Alsace-Lorraine.

A sa sortie en France en 1945, la guerre d'Espagne paraît déjà loin et le public ne se précipite pas dans les salles. Une réaction qu'un des critiques de l'époque expliquait ainsi: «Le monde s'était mis à ressembler aux romans d'André Malraux.»

Olivier Bras

Esprit, d'André Malraux
Le 20 décembre à 20h30 au cinéma Philadelphie

C'est la vie
L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma
Le 20/12 à 20h30, *Esprit* d'André Malraux, au cinéma Philadelphie (634 144).
Le 24/12 à 18h30, *L'accuse* d'Abel Gance à la Fondation Shoman (659 154).

Vidéo
Fin du cycle d'émissions consacré à l'écrivain et homme politique français André Malraux.
«De Gaulle, Malraux, portraits croisés» le 23 décembre à 20h30 au Centre culturel français (CCF).

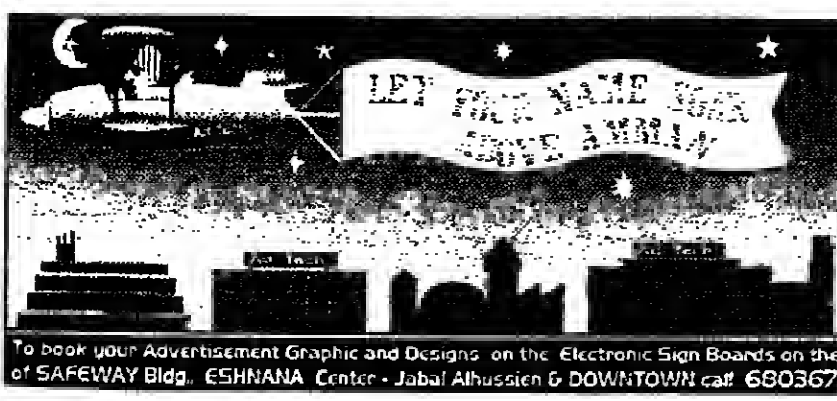
Dessins animés
Le 19/12 à 16h00 au CCF, *Astérix* chez Les Bretons. Un goûter sera offert en fin de séance.

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	669238
British Council	636147/8	Philadelpia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Y.W.C.A.	665195		
Y.W.M.A.	641793		
Dar al Funun	642252		
Ala Art Gallery	639303		
Aladna Art Gallery	657132		
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	675571		
Nabil & Hisham's Theatre	625155		

Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City	667181/5
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Royal Shooting Club	716572
Royal Chess Club	673711
Royal Racing Club	09-801233
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Univ. of Jordan Library	843555
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Government Depts.

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Amman Greater Municipality	636111	Municipalities & Environment	641393
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Awqaf & Islamic Affairs	666141	Planning	644466
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Energy & Mineral Resources	815615	Public Works & Housing	668481
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Foreign Affairs	644361	Supplies	602121
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Important Numbers

Emergencies

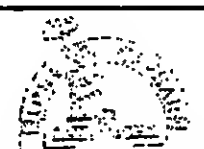
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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Have you noticed:

Everyone is talking about the Internet and on-line services. The Workstation page is turning into the forum for these topics. Fax us on 648298 or email us at Star@NETS.com.Jo with your views. We and our readers want to know them.

Sporting a new look and numerous developments: Primus BBS generates user enthusiasm

By Zeid Nasser
Star Staff Writer

PRIMUS BBS is smoothly developing into more of an "interactive" environment, reflecting different sectors of the Jordanian on-line community.

A change of look revealed at the Middle East Technology Show (METS) '96 has some what transformed the bulletin board service, making it even more user friendly.

What's more, you can now log into Primus through Microsoft's Internet Explorer, thus eliminating the need to use any proprietary software. Naturally, you can still use WildCat Navigator, the software upon which Primus BBS was based to begin with.

However, the most noticeable development has to be in the content of Primus.

Computer Networking Services (CNS), the company behind Primus, has been hard at work creating cooperation agreements with organizations and companies interested in utilizing Primus as a promotional outlet.

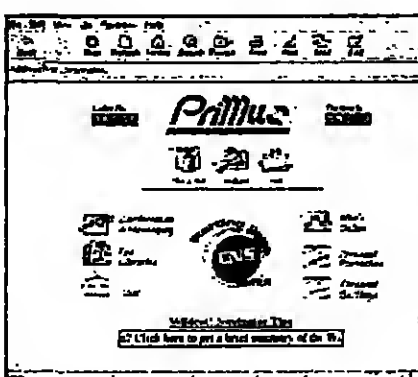
The results of these efforts are beginning to show with a near-explosion in content in the past couple of weeks. By clicking on the "Starting Point" icon, found at the Primus BBS home

page, users are taken into a varied section that boasts sites for the likes of Champions, Friends of the Environment, the Royal Jordanian Gliding Club and more.

Of course, apart from these sites, an icon at the "Starting Point" also offers a link to the many companies that have chosen to have sites on Primus BBS, such as Specialized Technical Services, Creative Design Concepts, Jerusalem Insurance Co. and others.

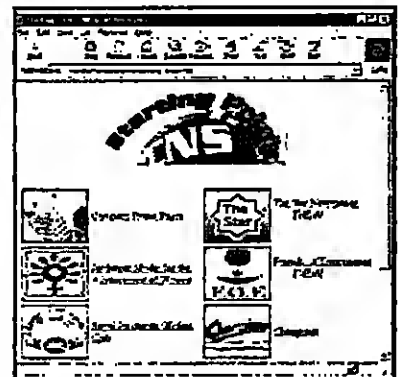
The Star has recently become available on Primus, being the first publication to go on-line on the service. Due to the fact that Primus is an HTML-based service, The Star on Primus is very similar to its electronic edition on the World Wide Web, hosted at Arabia.On Line. The simple fact is that any site on the World Wide Web can be easily mirrored on Primus shows how powerful and solid the software behind the service actually is.

"The idea is to provide Primus BBS users with content and features not available elsewhere," said Mr. Amer Naseri-



din. "So far, we've been very pleased with the users' response and, from the looks of it, many more people will be benefiting from Primus."

With well over 350 subscribers, only one month after its official launch, Primus BBS is obviously generating enthusiasm among Jordanian users. For more information, contact Computer Networking Services (CNS) at telephone number 614755.



The IntelliMouse

THE INTELLIMOUSE is the latest version of the popular Microsoft Mouse. It differs from previous models by the replacement of the middle button with a small rubber wheel. For users to benefit from this latest edition, they need to install a software driver known as IntelliPoint 2.0. If the driver is not in use, the mouse will simply be installed as a regular two button mouse. Your software must be designed to take advantage of this new mouse. Functions like "scrolling, panning and zooming" can all be controlled from the wheel button. Microsoft has announced that Office 97 and Internet Explorer 3 will provide many functions for the wheel.



Microsoft introduces a final test-version of its Arabic Internet Browser software:

Arabic Explorer on the way

MICROSOFT IS hot on the heels of Alis Technologies and Sakhr Software, with the introduction of its own Arabic Internet browser, Arabic Explorer.

Microsoft Internet Explorer is the well-known standard browsing software that has been developed for Windows, and is currently used by millions of Internet users around the world.

In fact, Internet Explorer is fast gaining in on Netscape Navigator, which is still the leader in the browser software market.

Arabic Explorer is currently in the final beta stages, which means that it's months away

from official launch. It offers fully Arabized menus and can access Arabic HTML pages.

Judging by the beta version reviewed by many leading magazines like BYTE Middle East and Arabian Computing News (ACN), it seems that Microsoft's Arabic Explorer is going to make a serious impact on the market.

If interested, users should be able to download a copy of Arabic Explorer beta from the Web.

Microsoft announced in a press conference that it was spending \$2 billion per year on research and development.

Around ninety percent of that is allocated to Internet/Intranet development. It is said that Microsoft is prepared to lose over \$1 billion dollars in the coming years to control the Internet/Intranet market.

Naturally, Arabic Explorer is to be part of the Arabic Windows 95 system. Microsoft is also planning to introduce Arabic Web authoring tools.

For now, users interested in browsing the web in Arabic can utilize the solution offered by Sakhr Software that functions as a "Plug-In" into Netscape, or they can check out Arabic Tango from Alis Technologies.

One thing is for sure, the race is on in the Arabic browser market and users will be the most to benefit eventually.

News update

Global One launches the "Local Intranet"

As promised, Global One/Sprint Jordan, the only Internet Service Provider in Jordan so far, has introduced a "Local Intranet" service that basically mirrors sites from the World Wide Web.

The new service provides subscribers with the opportunity to browse the contents of the local Intranet for as long as required, for no charge. Of course, this is understandable considering that this Intranet takes the form of a local dial-up service that only costs users normal telephone charges.

Global One / Sprint Jordan view this service as an added value that should present an additional incentive for users to

subscribe to the Internet On-Line service. For more information, contact Global One/Sprint Jordan on telephone 700301.

New generations of Apple Performa systems

Apple has announced a new generation of Macintosh Performa systems aimed at video specialists and enthusiasts.

The new Performa 6400 is equipped with the "Avid Cinema" system, developed by Apple.

Another new Performa, the 6360, is targeted at family and home computing users.

For more information on Apple's latest product in Jordan, contact Ideal Systems at 688123 or Specialized Technical Services (STS) at 827611.

Jordanian booth at Cebit '97 in Hannover

Jordan is going to be the third Arab country to participate in Cebit, one of the largest computer and information technology shows in the world, held every year in Hannover, Germany.

Through a Jordanian national pavilion, seven software com-

panies will present the skills of Arabic software development that characterize Jordan, which were also showcased at GITEX '96 in Dubai last month.

It is expected that the participating companies will be SEDCO, IdealSoft, Zeine Technological Applications, Turath Center, Arabic Textware and MicroSoftware House.

For more information on the Jordanian booth at Cebit '97, contact the Jordan Export Development Co. (JEDCO).

Download Lotus Arabic applications from the Web

Lotus has announced its "Middle East Home Page" on the Internet at which users are free to download Lotus Arabic applications free of charge.

For now, Lotus is offering Arabic Organizer and Arabic WordPro 96 for Windows.

The idea is to make Lotus Arabization technology available to users across the region. Lotus believe that this move is a demonstration of its commitment. It is also an excellent means of spreading Lotus Arabic software, rivaling Microsoft's domination of the market.

Check out these free applications at www.Lotus.com.

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Mac fanatics live on

EVERY ONCE in a while, I speak to a loyal Macintosh user who makes me feel that the old Macintosh Vs. Windows argument is still very much alive.

Whenever I joke with him, saying things like "why don't you consider putting away that Mac of yours and get a decent PC instead," he explodes in defense of his beloved Macintosh, sounding words of harsh attack at everything that is IBM PC or Windows related.

"Using a Macintosh has spoiled me. I won't settle for anything else, especially a sorry imitation called Windows," he said.

Upon explaining to him that Windows 95 is actually a very impressive operating system, he asked me a very basic question:

"Will an icon resembling a disk pop up on my screen if I put a disk in the drive?" he enquired. "Can I view my documents on the desktop, dragging and dropping them at will?" he added. It is these points of user-friendliness and others that seem to make all the difference to Mac fans.

Microsoft has, quite unashamedly, taken steps over the years to emulate the wonderful functionality of the Macintosh. To a large extent, most of the features you see in Microsoft Windows today are basically things Apple provided a long time ago as part of the Macintosh operating system. The clearest example is the so-called "re-cycle bin" which is a straight imitation of the Macintosh "Trash Can". It took Microsoft 12 years to put a trashcan in its operating system (Apple delivered that in 1984!).

So, the claims of Macintosh users are quite legitimate. Windows incorporate many ideas from the Macintosh operating system and, in all honesty, the Mac still does a lot of things better. Just try to work with different devices on a Macintosh and you'll know that the much heralded "Plug & Play" that Microsoft has been trying so hard to implement on the PC, works like a dream on the Mac.

An Apple advertisement states it plainly: "Mac users, understandably, feel very strongly about their Macs. So, if you're brave (or foolish) enough to try and convert a hard core Mac user to whatever you're using right now, take some friendly advice. Don't."

One look at the picture printed above should give you an idea of what an angry Mac fanatic looks like. It's actually part of the same Apple campaign running under the slogan of: "Never tell a Mac user to use anything else". It's funny to think that Apple has probably found that the only way to stop its market share from shrinking is to scare off other-brand users from swaying Mac users to their side. Somehow, Apple is adopting the policy of, "If you can't beat them, scare them!"

Personally, I'm an intensive Macintosh and PC user. For me, it is quite simple: I enjoy using both but the Macintosh wins on all our journalistic, publishing and graphics work. The PC, on the other hand is unbeatable in productivity applications, such as databases and spreadsheets, and in entertainment and general use.

For an all-round home machine, my vote would have to go to a Pentium PC running Windows, but that's really a matter of opinion after all, some people insist on sticking with the Macintosh, which brings me back to my friend who recently informed me of his next purchase.

For Christmas, he's buying his son a computer and guess what? It's a Macintosh Performa, one of Apple's latest multimedia models. I guess it's the way of the world. Once a Macintosh fanatic is always a Macintosh fanatic.



An angry Macintosh user

Saudi Arabia and Iran triumphantly advance to Asian Cup semifinals

DUBAI—Striker Ali Daei scored four times in the second half to give Iran a stunning 6-2 victory over South Korea in an Asian Cup quarterfinal on Monday.

Iran twice came from behind to beat one of the favourites for the title and had to thank the clinical finishing of their 27-year-old striker for the comfortable margin of victory.

The Koreans crumbled when Daei scored his first in the 66th minute to put Iran 3-2 up after a loss of concentration by their defence.

Daei took the ball from Korea's Hong Myung-bo and run unchallenged with it for 20 metres before placing his shot on Kim's left. He and Iran never looked back.

Daei's second in the 76th minute was the best of the day and one of the best in the competition. With his back to goal, he controlled a long ball, turned and fired an unstoppable shot from 20 metres that flew into the top corner.

Daei completed his hat-trick seven minutes later from a pass by Khodadad Azizi after a quick counter attack and got his fourth from the penalty spot two minutes from time.

On the other hand, Kuwait, knocked out holders Japan with a surprise 2-0 win on Sunday.

Kim Do-hoon had given South Korea the lead in the 11th minute with a half-volley from 12 metres.

Iranian defender Karim Bagheri equalized in the 30th minute, heading in a corner from 18 metres that was deflected into the net by a Korean defender.

A minute after coming on, substitute Sin Tae-yong played a short ball in to Kim Joo-sung who chipped it down to the path of Sin. The substitute hit a clean left-foot drive that restored the Koreans' lead in the 34th minute.

The Iranians threw men forward in an attempt to draw level before halftime but could not breach the Korean defence.

They took the Koreans with storm at the start of the second half and twice came close to

equalising in the first five minutes.

But the Iranians were not to be denied for long. Azizi scored in the 51st minute from a fine through ball from Daei to make the scoreline 2-2. And then Daei took centre stage.

Teams:
Iran: 22-Nima Nakisa; 2-Naeim Sadavi; 4-Karim Bagheri; 5-Mohammad Peiravang; 7-Ali Reza Mansourian; 9-Hamid Rezaestili; 10-Ali Daei; 11-Khodadad Azizi; 14-Mohammad Khakpour; 18-Farshad Falahatzade; 25-Mehrdad Mirzad.

South Korea: 1-Kim Byung-ji; 5-Huh Ki-tae (3-Park Kwang-hyun 70); 6-Shin Honggi; 9-Kim Do-hoon; 11-Ko Jeong-woon; 17-Ha Seok-ju; 19-Seo Jong-won (7-Sin Tae-yong 33); 20-Hong Myung-bo; 22-Lee Young-jin; 23-Yoo Sang-chul; 24-Kim Joo-sung (12-Lee Ki-hyung 54).

Saudi Arabia survived an early scare to come back from two goals down and beat China 4-3 in their Asian Cup quarterfinal match Monday in Abu Dhabi.

Now the Saudis have a semi-final meeting on Wednesday with Iran, who earlier in the evening demolished South Korea 6-2. The other semifinal will pit Kuwait against the UAE in a tournament that has named from the Asian Cup to the Gulf Cup.

Saudi's victory was carved out by veteran midfielder Yousef Thunai, brought on in the 29th minute to stop the rot after China had swept into a 2-0 lead and threatened to run riot.

With almost his first touch of the match, the 33-year-old Thunai open the Saudi scoring after Chinese goalkeeper Ou Chuliang could only palm away a fierce shot from Khalid Timavi.

Thunai, all alone at the far post, shot home and the Saudi victory parade was under way.

A minute later Thunai took the ball down the right side, flashed across a low center and striker Sami Al-Jaber struck after defender Ma Mingyu



The Saudi team with great expectations.

failed to clear.

Two minutes before halftime Saudi Arabia went in front when this time it was Al-Jaber who crossed for Fahad Mahalel who cut inside the defense before slotting the ball home.

But Thunai, revelling in his return to the team, got his second in the 65th minute, again turning his defender before slotting home from the left.

Captain Xu Hong pulled one back for China in the 90th minute but it was too little too late.

But until the arrival of Thunai, the Chinese were threatening to blow the Asian Cup wide open. With pre-tournament favourites Japan and South Korea both already out, a Saudi defeat would have meant the exit of Asia's three top teams. It took only seven minutes for China to strike.

The Saudis, looking as if they were still in shock after their 3-0 defeat by Iran in their final group match, were being sliced apart by the Chinese attack.

With oceans of space on either flank, Chinese made the most of it and when Zhang Enhua rose unmarked to head home a Peng Weiguo cross the Saudi fans were stunned into silence.



The Saudi team with great expectations.

Nine minutes later Peng made it two nil when he got his toe to a low cross.

The Saudis were in total disarray and China were threatening to pull off the biggest shock of the tournament.

A minute later Gao Feng nearly made it 3-0 but a great diving save from Mohamed Al-

Daei denied him.

Saudi's Portuguese coach Eduardo Vinga, unable to believe what he was seeing, decided to send on Thunai and shake his lackluster team into action.

It was an inspired decision that kept Saudi on track for their third championship title.

Torino marks 90 years of triumph and tragedy

TURINO, Italy—While all-conquering Juventus march on, city neighbors Torino are marking their 90th birthday with a simple display featuring old boots, dentured silverware and wreckage from an air crash.

It may not sound like much but the smashed propeller, pockmarked wheel, battered leather suitcases and old photographs exhibited in the foyer of Torino's Regio theatre are reminders of a team greater than any Juventus side.

They are also relics of a tragedy that still haunts the Italian club which was founded in December 1906 by two Swiss businessmen in a room over a beer hall.

In the same way that the 1958 Munich Air Crash left its mark on the history of Manchester United, the tragedy that still casts its shadow over Torino happened at five past five in the afternoon of 4 May, 1949.

Returning from a friendly match against Portugal's Benfica in Lisbon, the entire Torino team died when their FIAT G-212 plane crashed into the 18th century Superga basilica to the east of Torino while coming in to land in thick fog.

Eighteen players, 10 of them Italian internationals including the captain Valentino Mazzola, perished along with English coach Leslie Lienesley, officials and reporters.

All of Italy felt the loss of star players admired universally as well as the tragedy of the club which has traditionally boasted more support in Torino than Juventus, whose fans are dispersed across Italy, is that they still exist. Their club symbol is a rampant bull, the Toro, but the beef is sadly missing. At the end of last season, after twice replacing their coach, Torino went down to Serie B.

The club has had its stars over the years—1982 World Cup winning coach Enzo Bearzot was a stalwart in the 1950s while his World Cup star Francesco Graziani graced the club in the late 1970s—but fate continued to play cruel tricks.

In the 1960s brilliant Italy winger Gigi Meroni, the Roberto Baggio of his day, enthralled the home crowd.

Once again, tragedy took away Torino's finest. Meroni was killed by a speeding car in Torino in October 1967.

In November 1976, Giorgio

"Il Grande Torino" (Great Torino).

"They were a team unique to the world, inimitable, capable of unvalued exploits... The team was the symbol of an Italy still wounded by World War II but determined to redeem itself," narrates a 90th anniversary commemorative book.

Led by Mazzola, father of Inter and Italy great Alessandro Mazzola, Torino had won five consecutive league titles from 1943 to 1949 (the 1943-44 and 1944-45 seasons were cancelled) and provided most of the Italian national team.

They dominated Italy to such an extent that, playing against Ferenc Puskas's Hungary in a 1947 friendly, 10 of the 11 Italians on the pitch were from Torino. The 11th goalkeeper Lucidio Sentimenti, was from Juventus, Italy won 3-2.

Cash-strapped and struggling compared with European and world club champions Juventus, Torino have few recent achievements to compare with those of the "Old Lady" which celebrates its 100th birthday next year.

"I would like to express one wish," Alessandro Mazzola wrote recently of Torino. "That under the Christmas Tree you find that peace as a club which will allow you as soon as possible to become great again at the level you deserve."

They have won just one title, 20 years ago, since 1949. But the biggest success for a club which has traditionally boasted more support in Torino than Juventus, whose fans are dispersed across Italy, is that they still exist. Their club symbol is a rampant bull, the Toro, but the beef is sadly missing. At the end of last season, after twice replacing their coach, Torino went down to Serie B.

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Ferrini, assistant coach and former captain, died of illness aged 37.

"It has not been easy, nor will it be in future, to be a fan of Torino," said the daily Gazzetta dello Sport.

The past dominates the exhibition, with photographs, shirts and personal effects of the "Grande Torino".

There is Mazzola's old leather suitcase and the silver plate, recovered dented from the crash wreckage, brought home by the players after the match against Benfica.

Old wooden ticket stubs from the former Via Filadelfia stadium, disused since 1963 but now the object of a supporters' campaign for it to be refurbished, stand behind glass.

The commemorative book shows great Torino players of the past, including fiery Scotland star Dennis Law—whose move from Manchester City for the then record sum of 100,000 sterling in 1961 was a milestone in soccer transfers.

Law lasted one season before joining Manchester United but English international striker Jerry Hitchens was more successful, swiftly becoming Torino's top scorer.

The club was again involved in a record transfer in 1992 when Gianluigi Lentini was sold to AC Milan. Torino fans rioted in the streets and stormed the club offices in protest.

Lentini moved but the curse of Torino followed. A year later he crashed his car and almost died. His career is only now starting to show signs of recovery at Atalanta.

Torino, after almost folding several times, are still some way off a similar recovery.

But the hope, like the pain, never vanishes. "I have learned what it means to be a Toro fan," said Napoli coach Luigi Simoni, a former Torino player who developed an attacking partnership with Meroni.

The great misfortunes of Torino, those which make you suffer but also create a special bond. Those players who died at Superga became in some way all of Italy's sons.

"And then there was the tragedy of Meroni, and that of Ferrini. They are things that leave a mark, but which make you love that claret shirt all the more for them."

Romario

Romario turns down Valencia offer to shorten loan

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—Money isn't everything, soccer star Romario told Valencia.

The 30-year-old forward turned down a rich offer from the Valencia club to cut short his "loan" to Flamengo and return immediately to Spain.

Romario met Saturday with Flamengo President Kleber Leite and Valencia director Manolo Llorente. The Brazilian club had signaled that it would let Romario go but said the final decision was up to him. After a four-hour meeting, club officials said Romario insisted on staying until July 31, 1997.

"Romario gave further proof of how much he loves Flamengo," said Vice President Miguel Assis. "The lost money to stay here. What Valencia offered for him to return now isn't something many people would give up."

Although no figures were released, newspapers have reported that Romario would earn about \$65,000 a month with Flamengo and close to \$350,000 with Valencia.



Romario